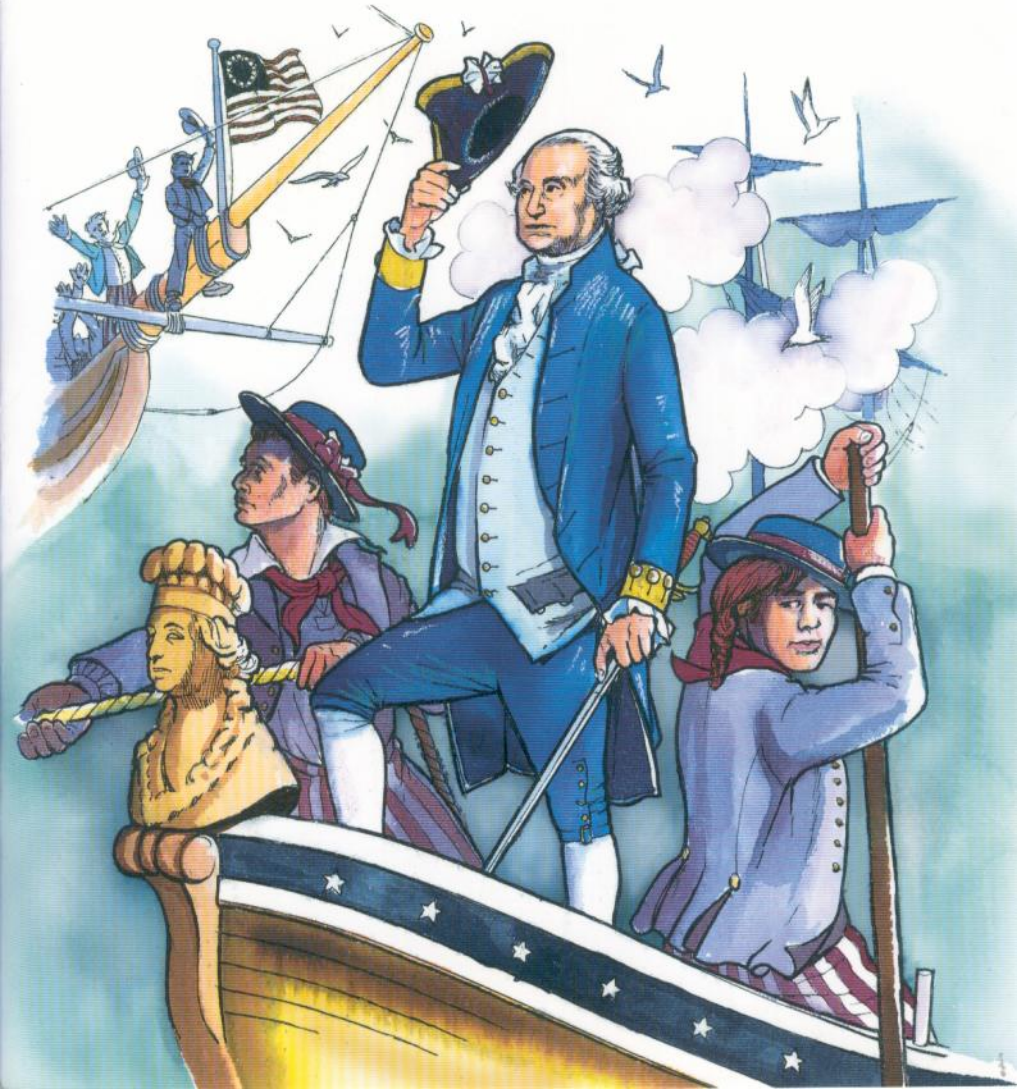
VISIT…

Dover Coloring Book

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

COLORING BOOK



AMERICAN PRESIDENTS
Coloring Book

Peter F. Copeland

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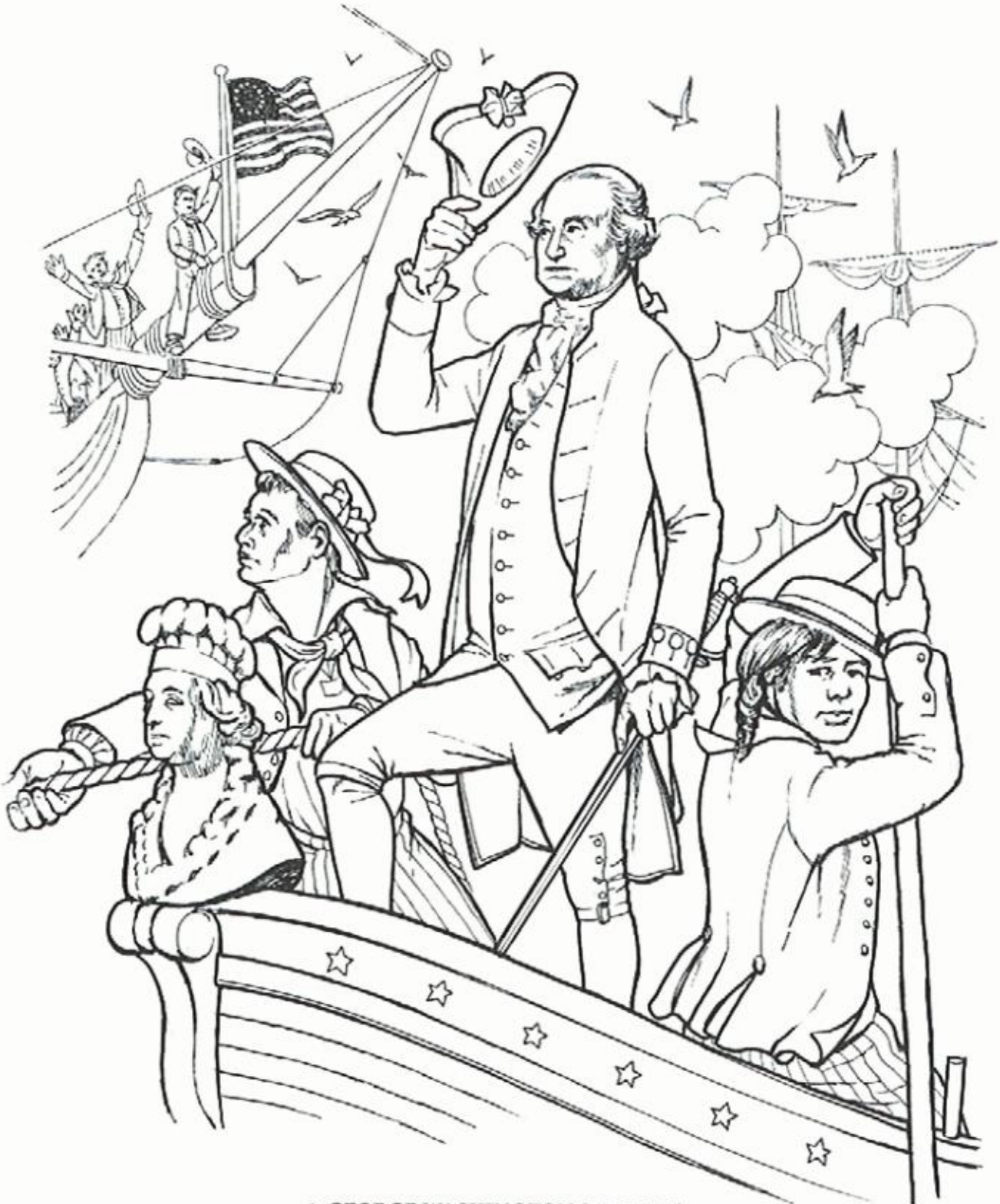
NOTE

"If men were angels," remarked the 51st Federalist Paper, "no government would be necessary." This notion at least partially expressed the sentiments of the Founding Fathers as they sought to shape the government of the young nation at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. Yet it was just as true to say that they were equally mistrustful of too much authority. Their ultimate solution, therefore, was to achieve a balance by defining a strong central authority that was limited in its ability to abuse power.

While constitutional provisions for the legislative branch are described in meticulous detail, the American Constitution is rather vague and ambiguous on the subject of presidential powers. Some, of course, are enumerated, such as the role of commander-in-chief of the armed forces, the authority to grant pardons and reprieves, the veto power over legislation, as well as the ability to make treaties with the consent of the Senate, and to appoint judges and ambassadors. In fact, as our history has unfolded, this lack of precise definition for the executive branch has been fortunate since it has allowed the presidency to evolve both through circumstance and the particular nature of the individual at the helm. Those presidents held in highest esteem by historians, such as Abraham Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt, held the office when far-reaching powers were demanded in order for the nation to survive times of crisis. And in the spirit of these remarkable men—as well as the lesser lights, but lights nonetheless—history is truly biography as we reflect on the story of America as also the story of its presidents.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

Name	*Party*	*Term of Service*	*Birth*	*Death*	*Page*
1. George Washington	Federalist	1789–1797	1732	1799	7
2. John Adams	Federalist	1797–1801	1735	1826	8
3. Thomas Jefferson	Democratic-Republican	1801–1809	1743	1826	9
4. James Madison	Democratic-Republican	1809–1817	1751	1836	10
5. James Monroe	Democratic-Republican	1817–1825	1758	1831	11
6. John Quincy Adams	Democratic-Republican	1825–1829	1767	1848	12
7. Andrew Jackson	Democrat	1829–1837	1767	1845	13
8. Martin Van Buren	Democrat	1837–1841	1782	1862	14
9. William Henry Harrison	Whig	1841	1773	1841	15
10. John Tyler	Whig	1841–1845	1790	1862	16
11. James K. Polk	Democrat	1845–1849	1795	1849	17
12. Zachary Taylor	Whig	1849–1850	1784	1850	18
13. Millard Fillmore	Whig	1850–1853	1800	1874	19
14. Franklin Pierce	Democrat	1853–1857	1804	1869	20
15. James Buchanan	Democrat	1857–1861	1791	1868	21
16. Abraham Lincoln	Republican	1861–1865	1809	1865	22
17. Andrew Johnson	Democrat	1865–1869	1808	1875	23
18. Ulysses S. Grant	Republican	1869–1877	1822	1885	24
19. Rutherford B. Hayes	Republican	1877–1881	1822	1893	25
20. James A. Garfield	Republican	1881	1831	1881	26
21. Chester A. Arthur	Republican	1881–1885	1829	1886	27
22. Grover Cleveland	Democrat	1885–1889	1837	1908	28
23. Benjamin Harrison	Republican	1889–1893	1833	1901	29
24. Grover Cleveland	*(see no. 22 above)*	1893–1897	*(see no. 22 above)*		
25. William McKinley	Republican	1897–1901	1843	1901	30
26. Theodore Roosevelt	Republican	1901–1909	1858	1919	31
27. William Howard Taft	Republican	1909–1913	1857	1930	32
28. Woodrow Wilson	Democrat	1913–1921	1856	1924	33
29. Warren G. Harding	Republican	1921–1923	1865	1923	34
30. Calvin Coolidge	Republican	1923–1929	1872	1933	35
31. Herbert Hoover	Republican	1929–1933	1874	1964	36
32. Franklin D. Roosevelt	Democrat	1933–1945	1882	1945	37
33. Harry S. Truman	Democrat	1945–1953	1884	1972	38
34. Dwight D. Eisenhower	Republican	1953–1961	1890	1969	39
35. John F. Kennedy	Democrat	1961–1963	1917	1963	40
36. Lyndon B. Johnson	Democrat	1963–1969	1908	1973	41
37. Richard M. Nixon	Republican	1969–1974	1913	1994	42
38. Gerald Ford	Republican	1974–1977	1913	. . .	43
39. James Earl Carter	Democrat	1977–1981	1924	. . .	44
40. Ronald Reagan	Republican	1981–1989	1911	. . .	45
41. George Bush	Republican	1989–1993	1924	. . .	46
42. William Jefferson Clinton	Democrat	1993–2001	1946	. . .	47
43. George Walker Bush	Republican	2001–	1946	. . .	48

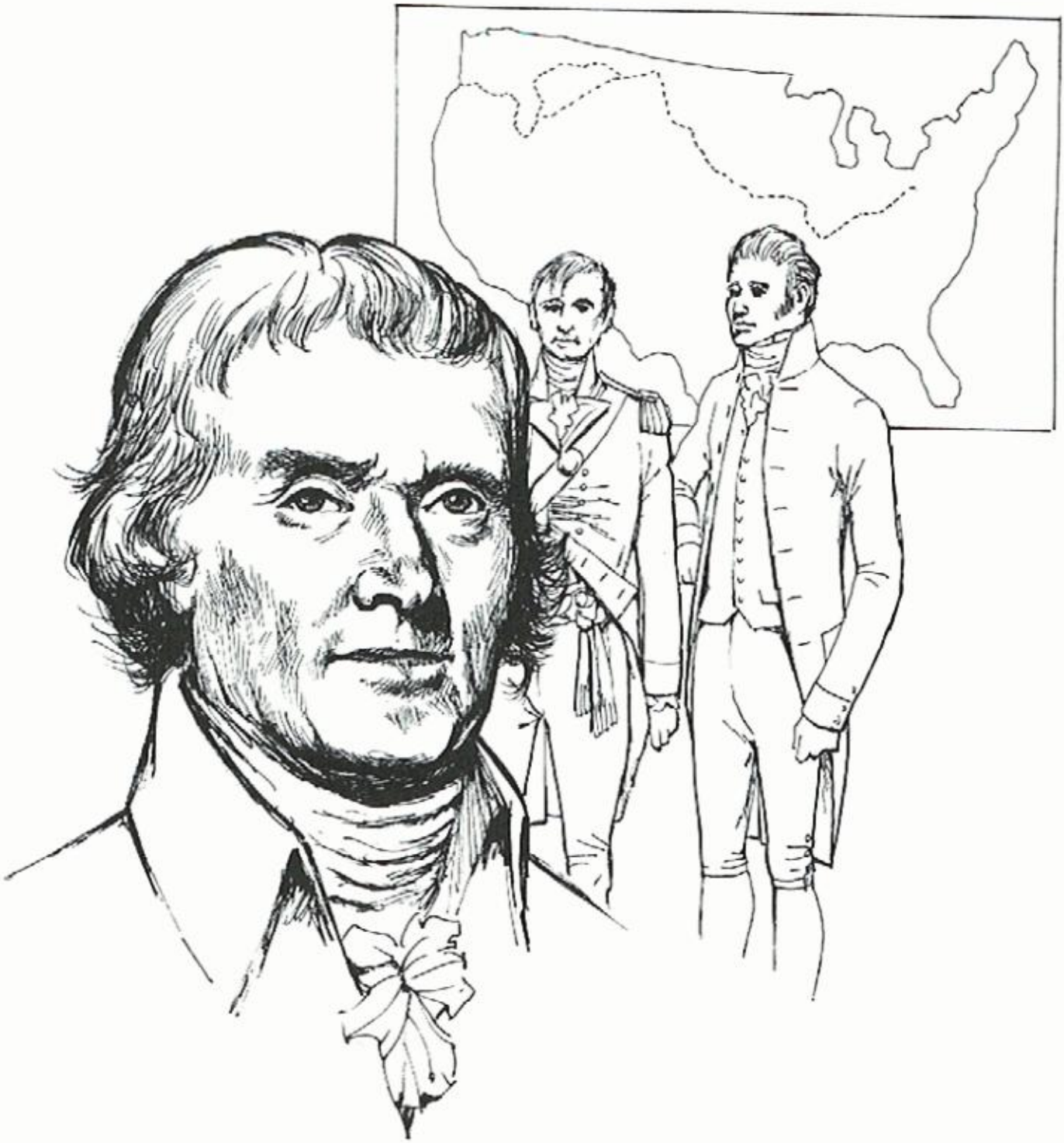


1. GEORGE WASHINGTON (1789–1797)

George Washington was a veteran soldier of the colonial wars, delegate to the Continental Congress, and commander-in-chief of the victorious Continental army of the U.S. during the American Revolution. He was elected the first president of the new republic in 1789, and is the only president to have received a unanimous electoral vote. Washington guided the U.S. through the wars between France and England that followed the French Revolution, insisting upon a neutral course while the new nation grew gradually stronger and more stable. Although he continued to take a strong interest in the country's affairs, Washington retired from public life in 1797 and died in 1799. Here we see him arriving in New York by boat, amidst great public acclaim and celebration, to assume the office of president. Washington, with the foresight of a visionary, helped memorialize the occasion with the words, "I walk on untrodden ground. There is scarcely any part of my conduct that may not hereafter be drawn into precedent." After two terms, he retired to his plantation in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

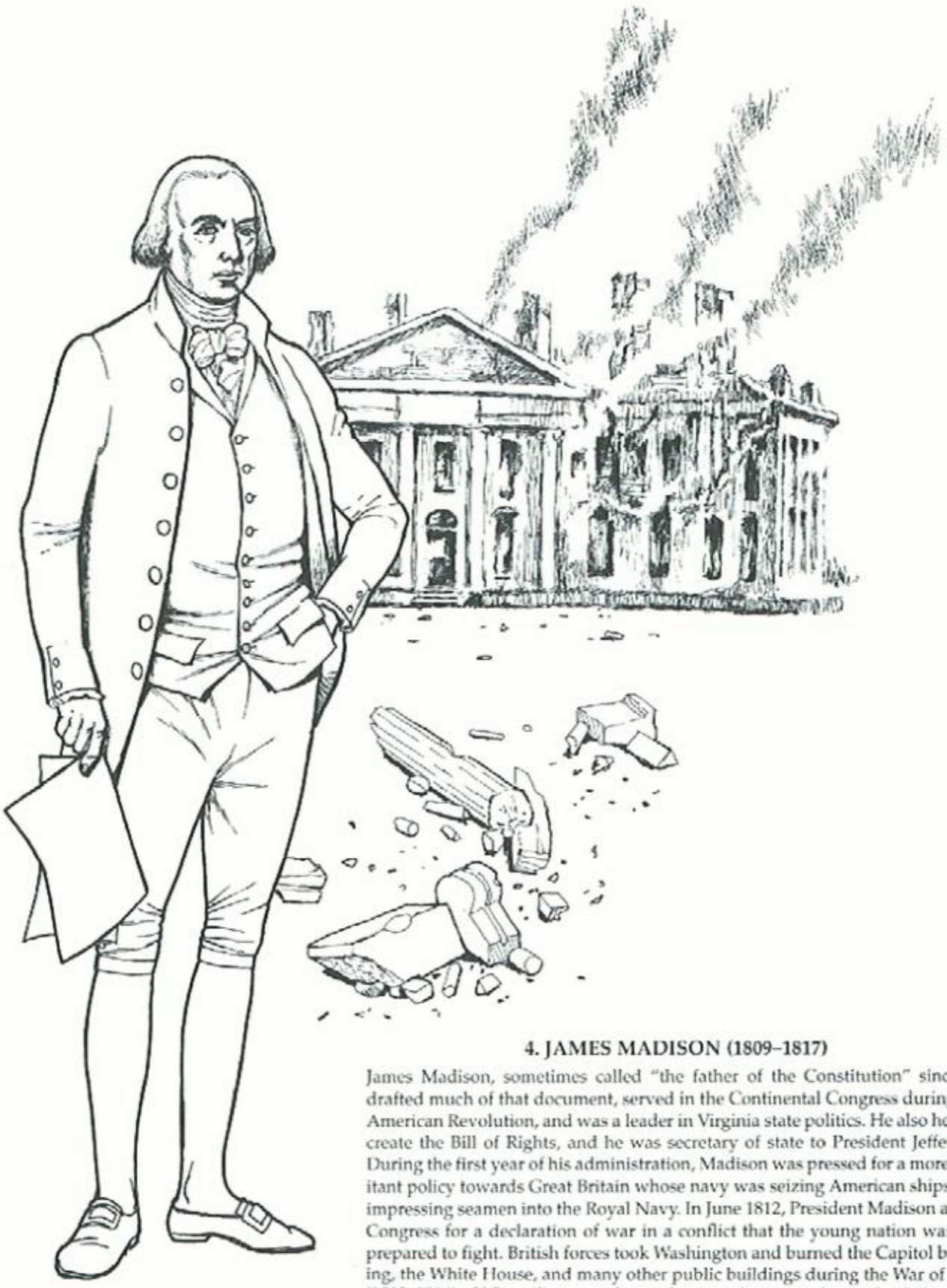
2. JOHN ADAMS (1797–1801)

John Adams was the first in a long line of presidential lawyers and a member of the Continental Congress. He was a leader in the movement for American independence during the revolution, and was the only president besides Thomas Jefferson to have signed the Declaration of Independence. Adams served as a diplomat abroad during much of the war, and helped negotiate the peace treaty that ended it; he was the nation's first vice president under George Washington. By the time Adams became president, the U.S. was on the brink of war with France largely because of Washington's pro-British foreign policy. Thanks to Adams' determination to seek a peaceful solution, war was ultimately averted, but naval battles were fought between U.S. frigates and French corsairs in what came to be known as the Quasi-War. American naval forces cleared the seas of French privateers and protected U.S. merchant ships, and negotiations eventually ended the maritime conflict. In November 1800, Adams took up residence in the new national capital at Washington, D.C., and entered the White House as the first occupant of the future home of all U.S. presidents. John Adams later retired to his farm in Massachusetts, where he died on July 4, 1826, the same day that his friend and colleague Thomas Jefferson died.



3. THOMAS JEFFERSON (1801–1809)

Thomas Jefferson was a Virginian, a lawyer, and member of the Continental Congress during the revolution. He personally drafted the Declaration of Independence unaided by any reference materials, not just for the purpose of finding "new principles, or new arguments, never before thought of . . . but to place before mankind the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent." He was secretary of state during the Washington administration and vice president to John Adams. As president, Jefferson sent a U.S. naval squadron to fight the barbary pirates of North Africa, and made the Louisiana Purchase (1803) from France. For a mere three cents an acre—or a total of $15 million—the U.S. was doubled in size by the acquisition of this vast region. He thereupon dispatched Lewis and Clark upon their famous expedition (1804–1806), mapping the vast new lands of the U.S., until they reached the Pacific coast. Here we see above, a map of the territory of their exploration behind President Jefferson and the two young explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. In 1807, Jefferson signed a bill into law that prohibited the importation of slaves into the U.S. and its territories. He died July 4, 1826, a day that also marked the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.



4. JAMES MADISON (1809–1817)

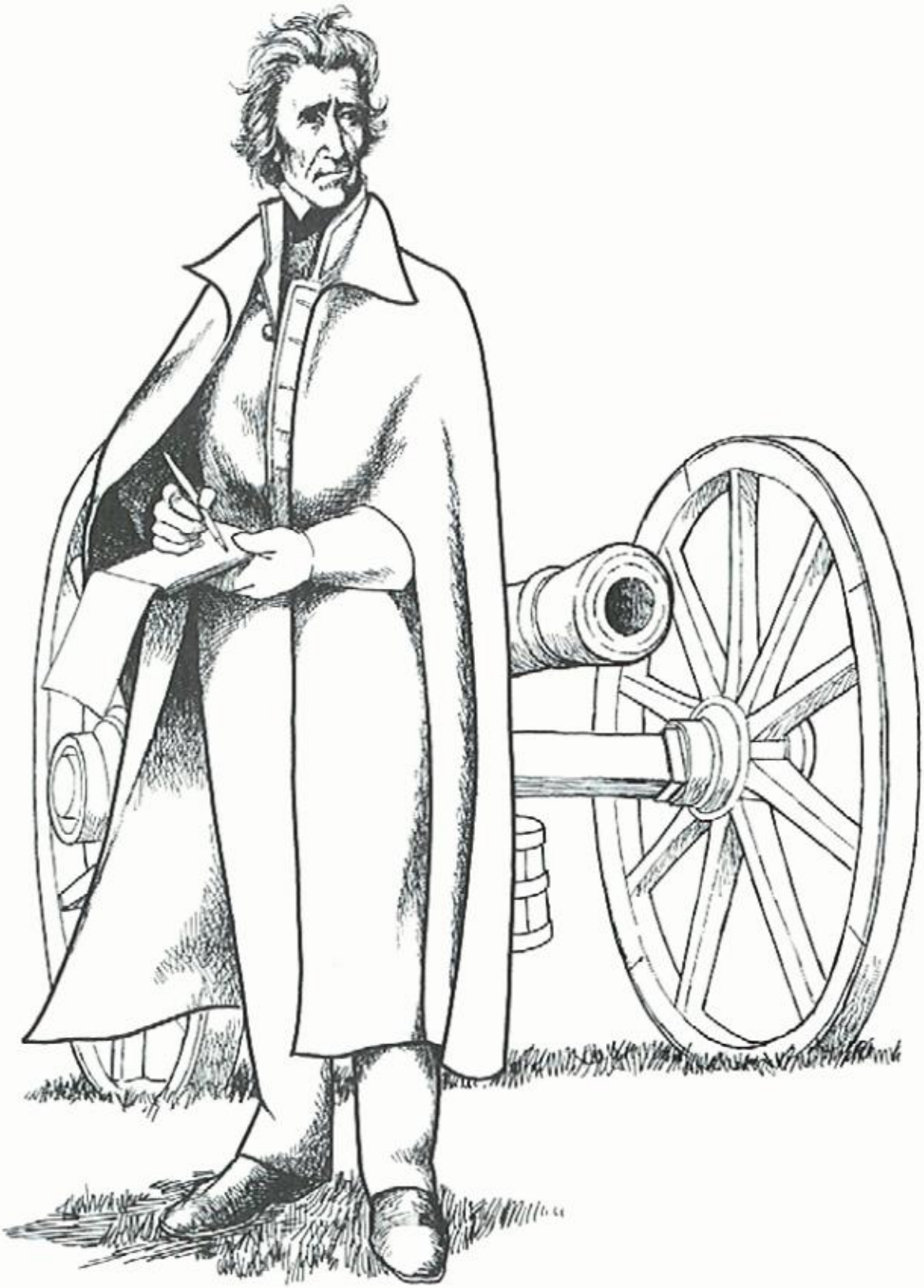
James Madison, sometimes called "the father of the Constitution" since he drafted much of that document, served in the Continental Congress during the American Revolution, and was a leader in Virginia state politics. He also helped create the Bill of Rights, and he was secretary of state to President Jefferson. During the first year of his administration, Madison was pressed for a more militant policy towards Great Britain whose navy was seizing American ships and impressing seamen into the Royal Navy. In June 1812, President Madison asked Congress for a declaration of war in a conflict that the young nation was not prepared to fight. British forces took Washington and burned the Capitol building, the White House, and many other public buildings during the War of 1812 (1812–1814). U.S. military and naval triumphs near the end of the war convinced many Americans that they were the victors; but it really ended in a stalemate with both sides ready to talk peace. James Madison retired to his home in Orange county, Virginia, where he died in 1836.

5. JAMES MONROE (1817–1825)

James Monroe, a veteran of the Continental army in the revolutionary war, was a lawyer from Virginia who served as a U.S. senator and minister to France, where he helped negotiate the Louisiana Purchase. His administration became known as "the Era of Good Feelings," a time dominated by the lack of partisan struggle, when the Democratic-Republican party temporarily enjoyed universal approbation from all segments of American society. Monroe is best remembered for the doctrine bearing his name which prohibits foreign intervention in the affairs of the Americas. Among his other foreign policy achievements was the purchase of Florida from Spain. He was one of the "Big Four from Virginia," along with Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, the last of these revolutionary leaders to become president. He died on July 4, 1831 in New York City, not long after moving there to live with his daughter following the death of his wife in 1830.

6. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS (1825–1829)

John Quincy Adams, the son of President John Adams—and the only son of a president to become president himself—was a lawyer who served in the Foreign Service in Europe, and was elected a U.S. senator in 1802. He was secretary of state under President Monroe, helping to formulate the Monroe Doctrine. Adams was the first president to endorse federally sponsored internal improvements, proposing a government program to develop a network of highways, bridges, and canals across the young nation, using funds from the sale of public lands to pay for the construction. He also worked to develop the arts and sciences, establishing a national university and financing scientific expeditions. At the end of his term of office, President Adams was elected to the House of Representatives, serving there for the remainder of his life. Here we see the president with the Capitol building as it appeared in 1829, before the reconstruction completed in 1863 made it look more like the building we know today.



7. ANDREW JACKSON (1829–1837)

Andrew Jackson was perhaps the first U.S. president who sought to act as the direct representative of the common people. A self-made man himself from the Carolina backwoods, Jackson became a lawyer and was elected to the House of Representatives from the new state of Tennessee. He became a national hero when he soundly defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812; it was considered the most decisive American victory of the conflict. Jackson had a tempestuous presidency, engaging in battles with leaders of the Whig party, and in a long dispute with the Second Bank of the U.S., opposing such political notables of the day as John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, and Daniel Webster. He died at his home, a 1,200-acre Nashville plantation known as The Hermitage, in 1845.

8. MARTIN VAN BUREN (1837–1841)

Martin Van Buren was a New York lawyer, a U.S. senator, and political ally and vice president of Andrew Jackson. Soon after his election as president, the nation was plunged into a depression—known as the Panic of 1837—when banks in New York City and elsewhere stopped converting paper money into gold and silver, touching off a nationwide panic that lasted until 1843. The widowed president is seen here with his daughter-in-law, Angelica Singleton Van Buren, who presided over the White House as First Lady during his administration. Martin Van Buren was defeated in his bid for re-election in 1840, and was an unsuccessful candidate for the office once again in 1848. He died in 1862 at his estate in Kinderhook, New York.

9. WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON (1841)

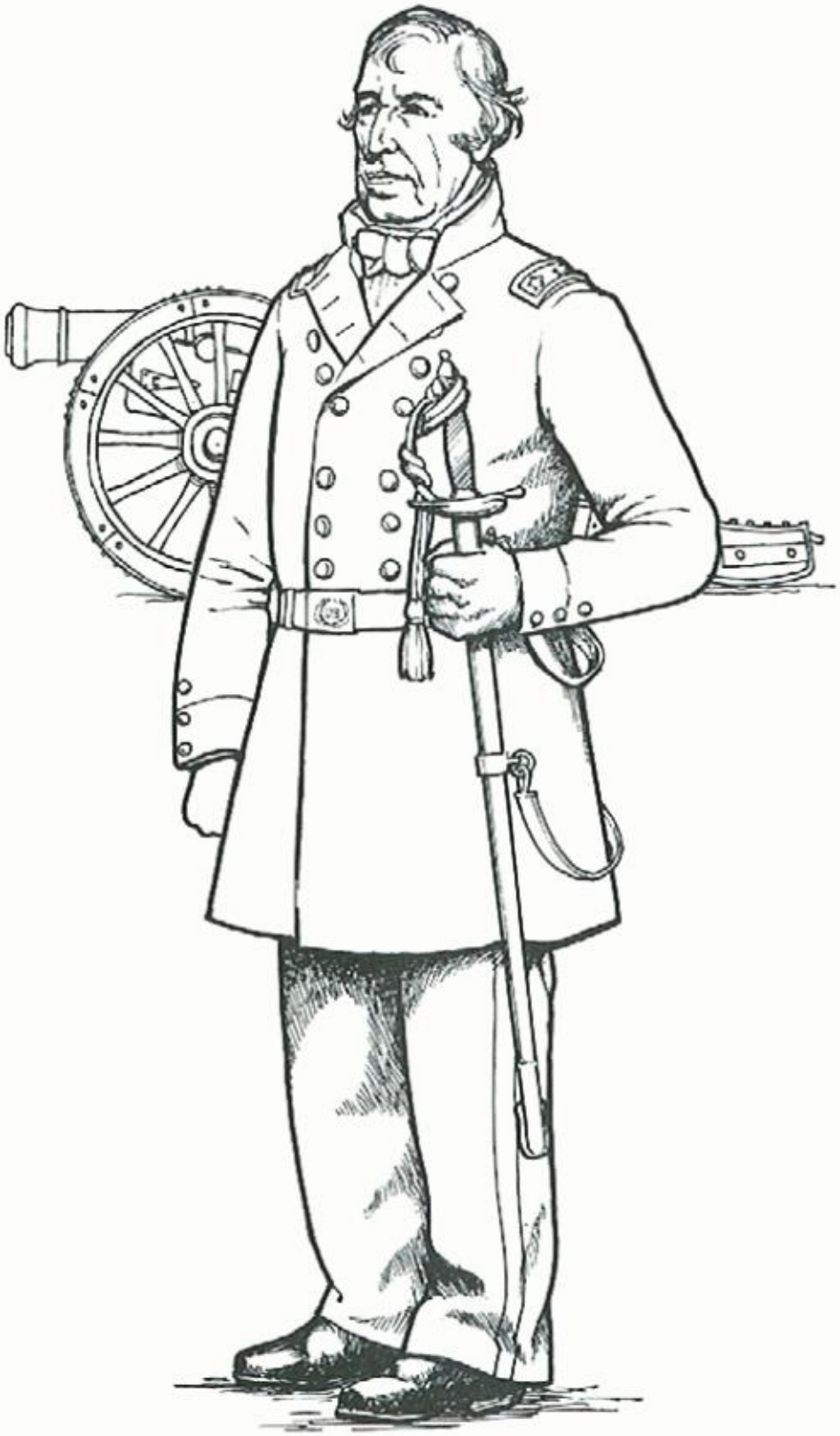
William Henry Harrison, Indian fighter, War of 1812 veteran, congressman and governor of the territory of Indiana, was elected president in 1841—at sixty-eight, the oldest man to date to have been inaugurated. He received the nickname "Old Tippecanoe" in 1811 when he led a battle against the famous Shawnee Indian chief Tecumseh and his followers at Tippecanoe Creek, Indiana; the victory put an end to Indian resistance to white settlement in the area. Before Harrison had been a month in office, he caught a cold that developed into pneumonia, and on April 4, 1841 he died, becoming the first president to die in office. Although he was in fact a Virginia aristocrat, Harrison was promoted as a simple farmer with frontier manners who lived in a log cabin and drank hard cider, in what was the first really modern presidential campaign, complete with songs, slogans, and political rallies.

10. JOHN TYLER (1841–1845)

John Tyler was the first vice president to be elevated to the presidency by the death of his predecessor. A lawyer, governor of Virginia, and U.S. senator, Tyler was elected vice president on a political ticket whose slogan was "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too," suggesting that the hero of the battle of Tippecanoe, William Henry Harrison, was teamed up with a favorite son of the South, John Tyler. Upon the death of Harrison, Tyler proved to be a controversial president because he was the first to succeed a president in office, and the Constitution was ambiguous on the matter of this precedent. Some interpreted his role only as "acting president," while others, including Tyler, perceived himself as a full president; ultimately Tyler's view prevailed. Sectionalism between the North and South was beginning to grow in strength during his administration, and politicians of the day began to rally around the contentious issue of slavery, and the admission of slave and free states into the Union. He retired to Sherwood Forest, his 1,200-acre plantation near Richmond, and died in 1862.

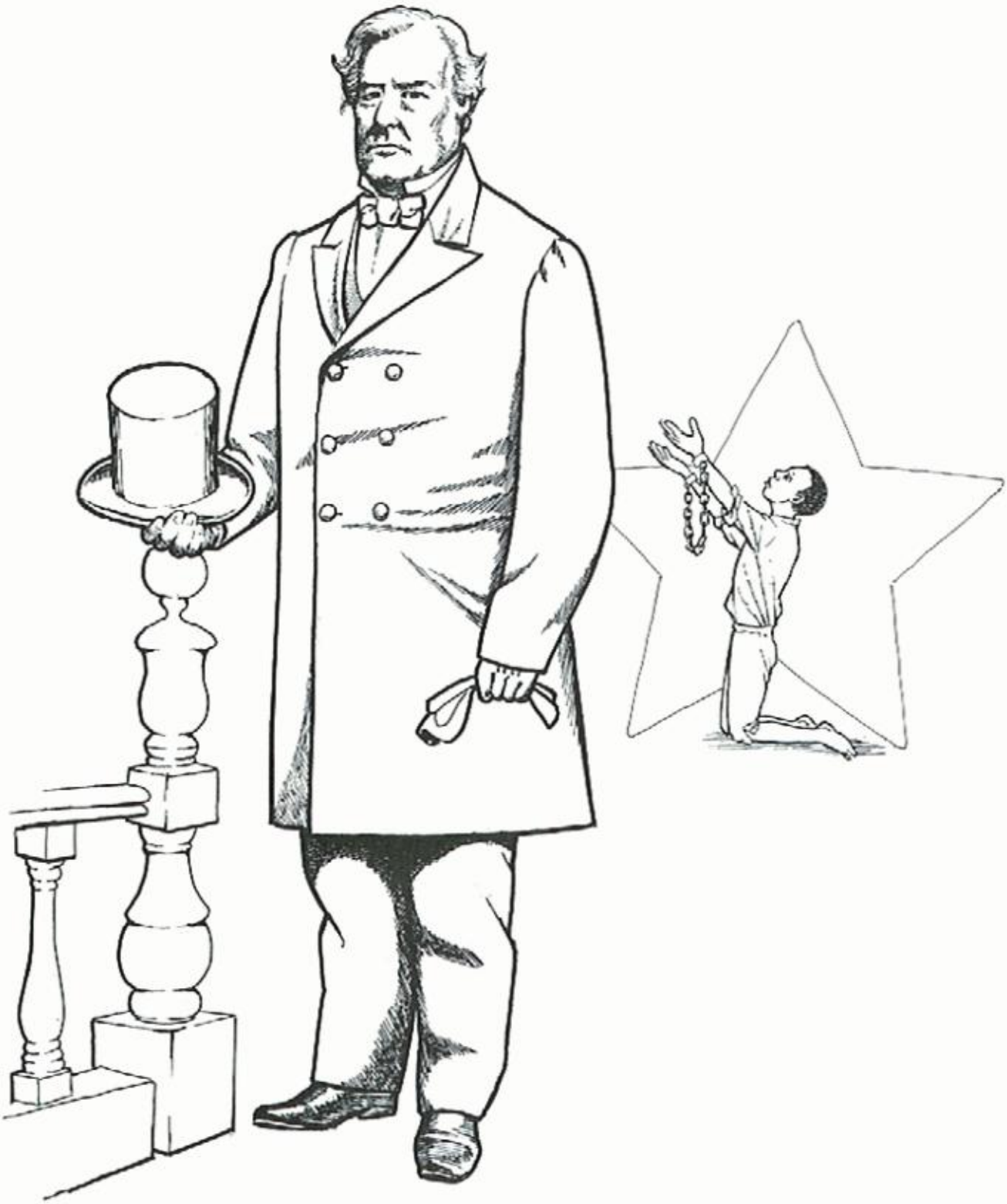
11. JAMES K. POLK (1845–1849)

James K. Polk was a North Carolina-born lawyer who served in the Tennessee legislature and later was governor of the state, and a close friend and ally of Andrew Jackson. He heartily endorsed the concept of Manifest Destiny, the belief that the U.S. had divine sanction "to overspread the continent allotted by Providence to the free development of our multiplying millions." When Polk tried unsuccessfully to purchase New Mexico and California from Mexico, he sent military forces under General Zachary Taylor to the Rio Grande border where they were attacked by Mexican troops. Congress declared war and a series of American military victories finally resulted in the capture of Mexico City. As a result of the Mexican War (1846–1848), New Mexico and California were ceded to the U.S. in return for $15 million, reducing Mexico to about one-half of its former size. The addition of this huge territory precipitated a bitter quarrel between the North and South over the expansion of slavery. James Polk died in June 1849 at his Nashville estate, Polk Place.



12. ZACHARY TAYLOR (1849–1850)

A Southern plantation owner, soldier, and Indian fighter, Zachary Taylor was one of the heroes of the Mexican War. He became president as the nation was just starting to be torn asunder over the issue of slavery. In 1850, when confronted by southern leaders who threatened secession, he in turn threatened to take command of the army in order to enforce the laws and protect the Union, promising that all those taken in rebellion would be hanged. Five months later—after only sixteen months in office—Taylor was dead, presumably the victim of a serious stomach ailment contracted after eating tainted cherries. In an ironic twist of fate, Zachary Taylor's only son would serve in the Civil War as a general for the Confederate army.



13. MILLARD FILLMORE (1850–1853)

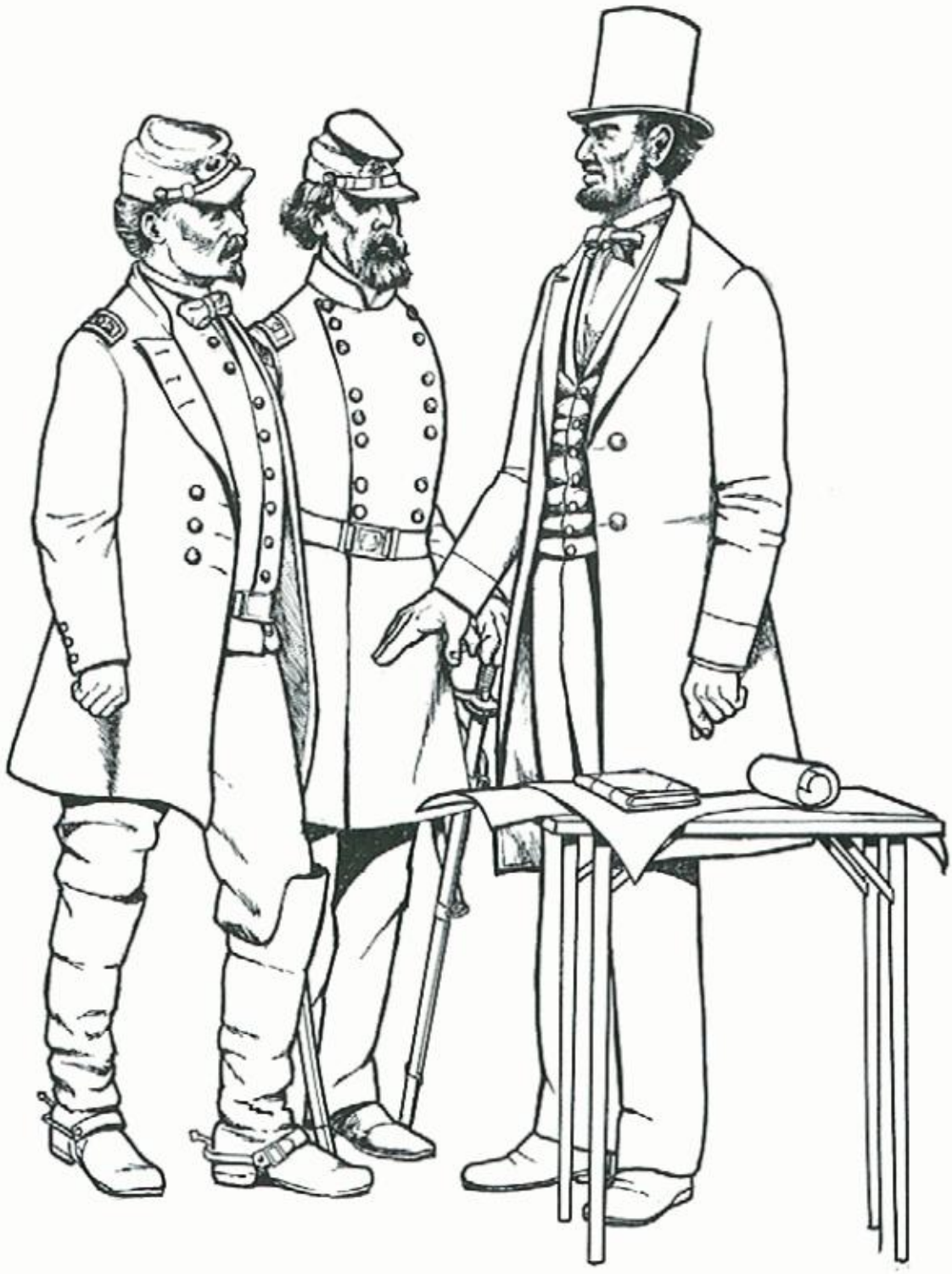
Millard Fillmore, born in a log cabin in rural New York state, was truly a "log cabin president." He became a lawyer and was a member of the House of Representatives, and in 1848, was elected vice president. Upon the sudden death of President Zachary Taylor, Fillmore ascended to the presidency. As one of his first acts in office, he appointed Daniel Webster secretary of state during the battle over whether lands acquired from Mexico should enter the Union as free or slave states. He angered militant northern politicians by signing the Fugitive Slave Act (1850), which permitted southern slaveowners to invade the North to recover runaway slaves. This led to such abuses as allowing free blacks legitimately residing in the North to be captured by white plantation owners who claimed them as runaway slaves, while denying them the benefit of a jury trial. The act widened more than ever the rift between North and South, and it marked the end of Fillmore's political career. He died in Buffalo, New York in 1874 after a long and busy retirement from the presidency.

14. FRANKLIN PIERCE (1853–1857)

Franklin Pierce, a New England lawyer, was a member of the House and later the Senate before narrowly winning the presidency. Two months before taking office, Pierce and his wife Jane saw their eleven-year-old son killed in a train wreck, an event which cast a pall over the social life of the White House during his presidency. Sectional hostility between North and South was revived over the Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854), which reopened the question of slavery in the west, and caused "Bleeding Kansas" to become a battleground between pro-slavery and abolitionist militants. By the end of Pierce's presidency, it was becoming obvious to all that a military confrontation between the North and South was quickly becoming inevitable. He died in 1869 in Concord, New Hampshire.

15. JAMES BUCHANAN (1857–1861)

James Buchanan—the White House's only batchelor—was a well-to-do Pennsylvania lawyer, who served in the House and Senate. He was also secretary of state and minister to Great Britain in the Polk administration. As president, Buchanan tried to find a compromise between the hostile northern and southern factions. The Dred Scott decision (1857), defending the rights of slaveowners, created a furor in the North. When in 1860, Abraham Lincoln was nominated for the presidency by the newly formed Republican party, outraged southerners demanded secession of their states from the Union. It was too late for the president to hold back the onrushing tide of events. Buchanan reverted to a policy of inactivity, and in March 1861, retired to his Pennsylvania home, leaving his successor to resolve the explosive issues facing the divided nation. Here we see Buchanan with a map of the United States, showing in a shaded area the state of South Carolina—about to leave the Union—and the boundary line of the soon-to-be southern Confederacy. Buchanan died in 1868 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.



16. ABRAHAM LINCOLN (1861–1865)

Abraham Lincoln, the son of a Kentucky frontiersman, was a self-made man of humble origins, a sometime farm worker, and a circuit-riding lawyer in rural Illinois. He was a member of the Illinois legislature, and a Whig congressman. He was elected president as the representative of the newly formed Republican party, and he dedicated himself to preserving the Union and preventing the secession of the southern states, even if it meant civil war. When South Carolina state troops forced the surrender of Fort Sumter, Lincoln called upon the nation for 75,000 volunteers to quell the rebellion. The seceding states formed a confederacy, thus marking the beginning of the Civil War (1861–1865). In September 1862, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring those slaves living in the Confederate states to be forever free, effective January 1, 1863. Finally, as the four-year war was coming to a close, Union forces were able to enter the Confederate capital at Richmond, Virginia, and the war was finally over when General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox. Five days later, on April 14, 1865, Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. by John Wilkes Booth, a twenty-seven-year-old deranged actor, who directly after the shooting lept onto the stage shouting, "Sic semper tyrannis! The South is avenged!"

17. ANDREW JOHNSON (1865–1869)

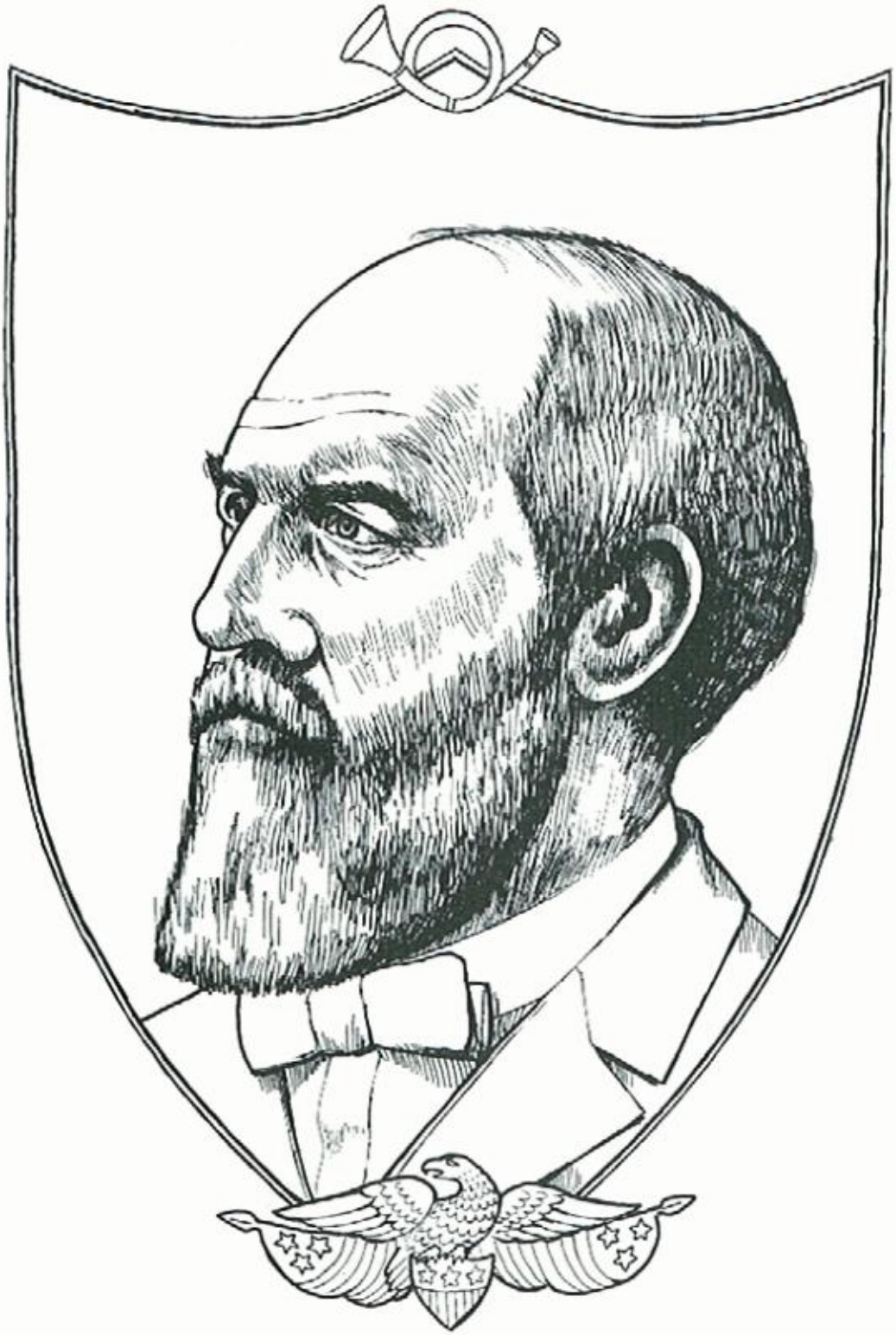
Andrew Johnson, a southern Democrat whose extensive political career included the governorship of Tennessee and U.S. senator, was vice president in the Lincoln administration and thus succeeded the slain president in 1865. The Civil War was just ending. Johnson worked for a lenient reconstruction policy for the defeated southern states, the kind envisioned by President Lincoln, and was immediately opposed by the Radical Republicans who favored a sterner reconstruction with special emphasis on protecting the rights of the freed slaves. In 1867, the radicals in Congress gained enough control to place the southern states under military rule. When the president dismissed the secretary of war, a Radical Republican named Edwin M. Stanton, eleven articles of impeachment were brought against Johnson in the House. The Senate acquitted the president by one vote when seven Republican senators risked their political careers to break party ranks and join the Democrats in exonerating him. Andrew Johnson remained active in the Democratic party during his retirement, and died in Carter County, Tennessee in 1875.

18. ULYSSES S. GRANT (1869–1877)

Ulysses Grant was a national hero—a symbol of the Union victory during the Civil War—and a logical candidate for president in 1868. He ran on the simple slogan, "Let us have peace," a sentiment heartily embraced by a public worn out by four years of war and three years of bitter reconstruction. Grant had been a professional soldier and a veteran of the Mexican War who became commander of the army of the U.S. in 1866—the first commander since Washington to hold that venerable rank. Unlike most of his predecessors, he had never before held political office. He was a political innocent, an honest man surrounded by men of ambiguous integrity whose behavior provoked several major scandals during his administration. Under Grant, radical reconstruction ran its course, while carpetbaggers and the Ku Klux Klan became powers in the defeated and occupied southern states. Grant's final days were spent writing his memoirs to raise money to support his family; he died in 1885 in Mount McGregor, New York, near Saratoga Springs.

19. RUTHERFORD B. HAYES (1877–1881)

Rutherford Hayes was an Ohio lawyer who rose to the rank of major general as a combat soldier in the Civil War. He entered Congress in 1865, and served two terms as governor of Ohio, declining renomination for a third term since he wished to preserve the two-term precedent. His election to president was disputed, and he eventually won it by one electoral vote. Hayes had the first telephone installed in the White House, but he is probably best remembered for his wife, Lucy Ware Webb, who banned alcoholic beverages in the White House during her husband's tenure, earning her the nickname "Lemonade Lucy." A glass and a pitcher of water (as pictured here) thus became the symbol of the Hayes' administration. He worked to restore integrity to the presidency after the pervasive corruption of the Grant adminstration, instituting civil service reform that barred federal employees from participating in political activities. He officially ended reconstruction when he withdrew the last federal troops from the South. Hayes announced in advance that he would serve only one term; he retired in 1881 to Spiegel Grove, the estate he inherited from his uncle in Fremont, Ohio, and where he died in 1893. In retirement, he remained active in public affairs, working for prison reform and promoting black education.



20. JAMES A. GARFIELD (1881)

James Garfield, an Ohio-born lawyer, was the last president to have been born in a log cabin, and was truly a self-made man who pulled himself up from extreme poverty. A Civil War veteran, he became a brigadier general at the age of thirty-one, the youngest general officer in the army. In 1862 he was elected to Congress, and was persuaded by President Lincoln to resign his military commission to serve as Ohio state senator. The old bitterness between North and South was beginning to cool when Garfield was elected president. He was on his way to a conference of all the American republics when tragedy intervened. On July 2, 1881, at a Washington, D.C. railroad station, President Garfield was shot and mortally wounded less than four months into his presidency by Charles J. Guiteau, a mentally unstable supporter who turned against the president after being refused a coveted diplomatic post. Garfield lay languishing for weeks before dying on September 19, 1881. Despite a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity, Guiteau was eventually convicted of murder and hanged.

21. CHESTER A. ARTHUR (1881–1885)

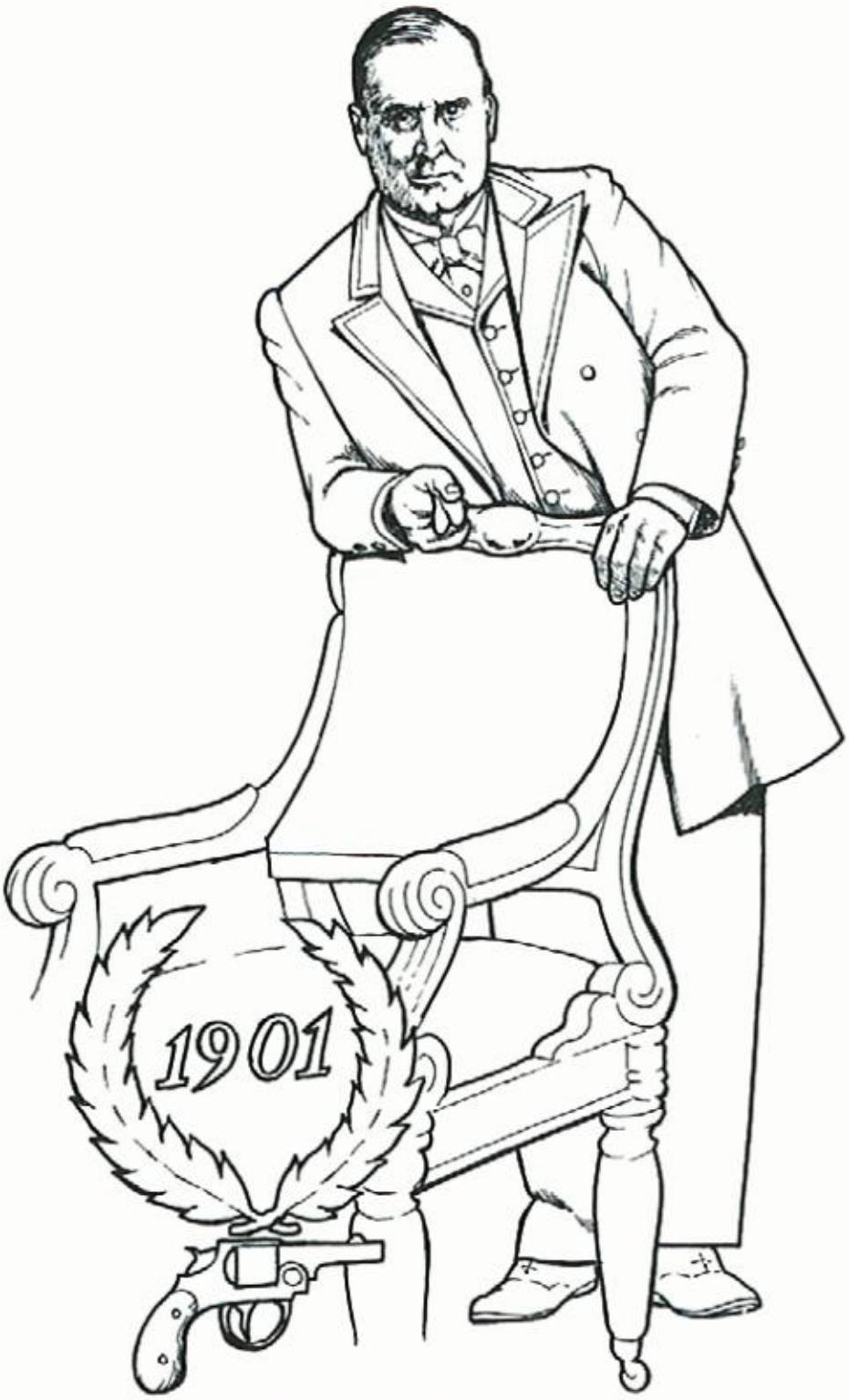
Chester Arthur was a lawyer active in the anti-slavery movement, as well as a machine politician from New York who was elected vice president during the Garfield administration. As president, he became a champion of civil service reform and signed into law the Pendleton Act (1883), which put an end to the spoils system for government jobs. The gunning down of President Garfield by a disappointed office seeker helped spur the passage of this bill. Among Arthur's other courageous political acts was his veto of the Rivers and Harbors Act (1882), which sought to appropriate $19 million for pork barrel legislation that amounted to a treasury raid. President Arthur was suffering from Bright's disease—a then-fatal kidney disease—while in office, and eventually died in 1886 in New York City.

22 and 24. GROVER CLEVELAND (1885–1889; 1893–1897)

Grover Cleveland, a New York state lawyer, was the only president to leave the White House at the end of his term of office and return for a second term four years later. The forty-nine-year-old Cleveland also held the singular distinction of being the only president to be married in the White House. At twenty-one years old, Frances Folsom would become the youngest First Lady. As president, Cleveland vetoed many of the pension and private relief bills for Civil War veterans that crossed his desk, believing many of them to be unwarranted drains on the U.S. Treasury. (He himself had not served in the war but instead had purchased a "substitute"—a Polish immigrant—for $150.) In 1887, he signed the Interstate Commerce Act, the first law attempting federal regulation of the railroads, and used federal militia to break the Pullman Strike, a work stoppage by Chicago railroad workers in 1894. In the field of foreign affairs, he compelled Great Britain to accept arbitration of a boundary dispute in Venezuela. The Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, was presented to the U.S. in 1886, during President Cleveland's first term. After an active retirement, he died in Princeton, New Jersey in 1908.

23. BENJAMIN HARRISON (1889–1893)

The grandson of the ninth president, William Henry Harrison, Benjamin Harrison was a lawyer and Civil War hero in Sherman's Atlanta campaign of 1864, who later served in the U.S. Senate. It was during his presidential administration that the Edison company installed electricity in the White House, making him the first president to sign papers by electric light. Harrison signed the Sherman Anti-Trust Act "to protect trade and commerce" by curbing the abuses of monopoly. During his years as a U.S. senator, Harrison had championed Indian causes; but ironically, it was in his term as president that the last pitched battle between whites and Indians occurred at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, in December 1890, where over 200 men, women, and children were massacred by the seventh U.S. cavalry regiment in a terrible act of revenge for Custer's defeat in 1876. Benjamin Harrison died in 1901 in Indianapolis, Indiana, after a very active retirement in which he resumed the practice of law and wrote articles for national magazines.



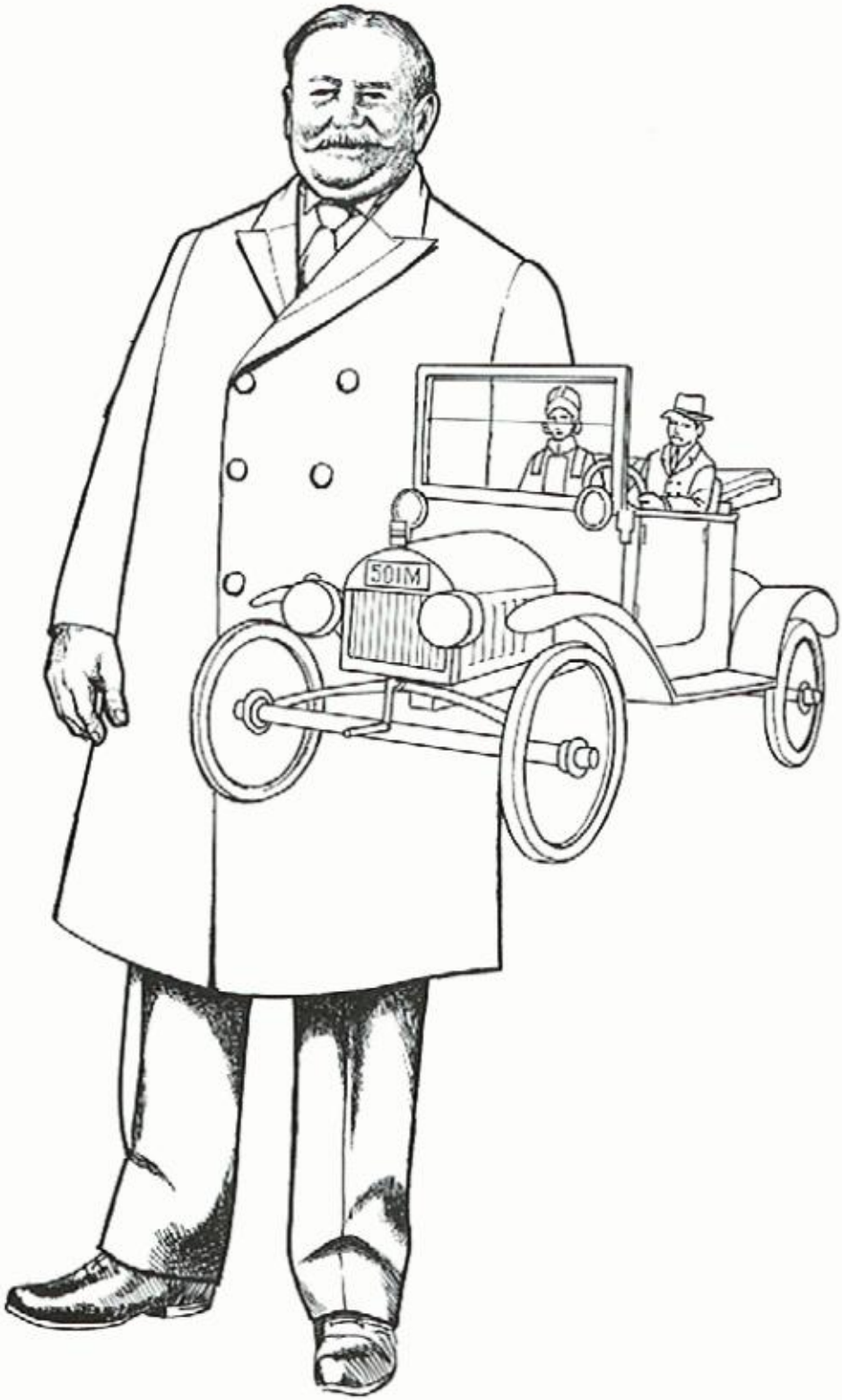
25.* WILLIAM McKINLEY (1897–1901)

William McKinley was a schoolteacher when the Civil War broke out, and he immediately enlisted in the Union army as a private; by the end of the war he was mustered out as a major. After the war he became a lawyer, at thirty-four won a seat in Congress, and later was elected governor of Ohio. While McKinley was president, industry prospered, but foreign policy intervened. The "yellow press" called for war with Spain over the issue of Cuban independence, fanning the flames of hatred with stories of Spanish atrocities against the Cubans rebels. Congress complied and the nation engaged in a 100-day war—known as the Spanish-American War (1898)—with every engagement a victory. In the throes of popular imperialism, the U.S. acquired the Philippines, Guam, and Puerto Rico, in addition to which Spain relinquished its claim on Cuba in accordance with the terms of the Paris Peace Treaty that marked the end of the war. The war was won, but President McKinley, while attending the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York in 1901, was shot by a deranged anarchist and died eight days later.

*President no. 24 was Grover Cleveland, serving his second term from 1893–1897.

26. THEODORE ROOSEVELT (1901–1909)

When Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded the slain President McKinley, he became at age forty-two the youngest president in the nation's history. The son of a wealthy New York family, Roosevelt became a national hero when he led a volunteer cavalry regiment popularly known as the Rough Riders in an historic charge at the battle of San Juan Hill during the Spanish-American War. As president, Roosevelt became an effective "trust buster," forcing the dissolution of a great railroad combine, as well as pursuing other anti-trust suits under the Sherman Act. He was awarded the 1906 Nobel Peace Prize for mediating the Treaty of Portsmouth that ended the Russo-Japanese War (1904–1906), dispatched the U.S. fleet on an around-the-world good will tour, and increased the area of the national forest lands from 43 to 194 million acres, to name just a few of his many outstanding accomplishments. In 1912, despite his pledge not to run for a third term, Roosevelt made another presidential bid, ultimately losing to Taft. While on a speaking engagement in Milwaukee in October of that year, Roosevelt was shot by a would-be assassin, but fortunately recovered completely. After ten years of productive retirement, which included a year-long African safari, the writing and publication of several books and numerous magazine articles, Theodore Roosevelt died peacefully in his sleep at Sagamore Hill, his Oyster Bay, Long Island estate, in 1919.



27. WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT (1909–1913)

William Taft was a lawyer from Ohio who had been a federal judge, first governor of the Philippines, and secretary of war under Roosevelt. He was Roosevelt's choice to succeed him as president. Although he pledged to follow Roosevelt's progressive policies, he was, in fact, somewhat more conservative, and ultimately made an enemy of his former mentor, who ran against him in the 1912 election on the Bull Moose ticket. Among the notable accomplishments of Taft's administration was a bill requiring disclosure of federal campaign funds during elections, as well as introducing controls on government expenditures. He was the first president to enjoy the use of a government-owned automobile, and the first to throw out the first ball on opening day of the baseball season. In 1921, he realized his lifelong dream to become chief justice of the Supreme Court, where, by all accounts, he served admirably for nine years. Taft died in 1930 in his Washington, D.C. home.

28. WOODROW WILSON (1913–1921)

Woodrow Wilson was a Virginia-born lawyer who served as president of Princeton University and later as governor of New Jersey. He was elected president in 1912, and as a progressive, pro-labor president, accomplished several major pieces of legislation during his administration. These included the Underwood Tariff (1913), which not only reduced the nation's tariff but also provided for a graduated federal income tax; established the modern Federal Reserve system via passage of the Federal Reserve Act (1913); the Federal Trade Commission (1914) "to kill monopoly in the seed"; and the Adamson Act (1916), a bill that fixed the eight-hour day for trainmen, and which eventually led to broad acceptance of the eight-hour work day. During his first term in office, Wilson kept the nation out of the first world war; but after his re-election, when German submarines started attacking U.S. merchant ships in the Atlantic, he asked Congress for a declaration of war against Germany. As the war moved toward a victory for the Allies, President Wilson presented Congress with his long-range peace plans known as the Fourteen Points (1918), the last point introducing the concept of the League of Nations. At the end of the war, he brought the Treaty of Versailles (1919), which included a provision for the League of Nations, to Congress for its approval. However, a Republican Congress failed to approve the treaty. Wilson made an exhaustive tour of the nation (as we see him here) to mobilize public opinion on behalf of the League. In the course of this effort, he suffered a stroke and nearly died. Isolationists won the day, and the U.S. did not join the League of Nations, which was ultimately resurrected after World War II as the United Nations. Wilson, nursed by his second wife, lived in Washington, D.C. as a semi-invalid until he died in 1924.

29. WARREN G. HARDING (1921–1923)

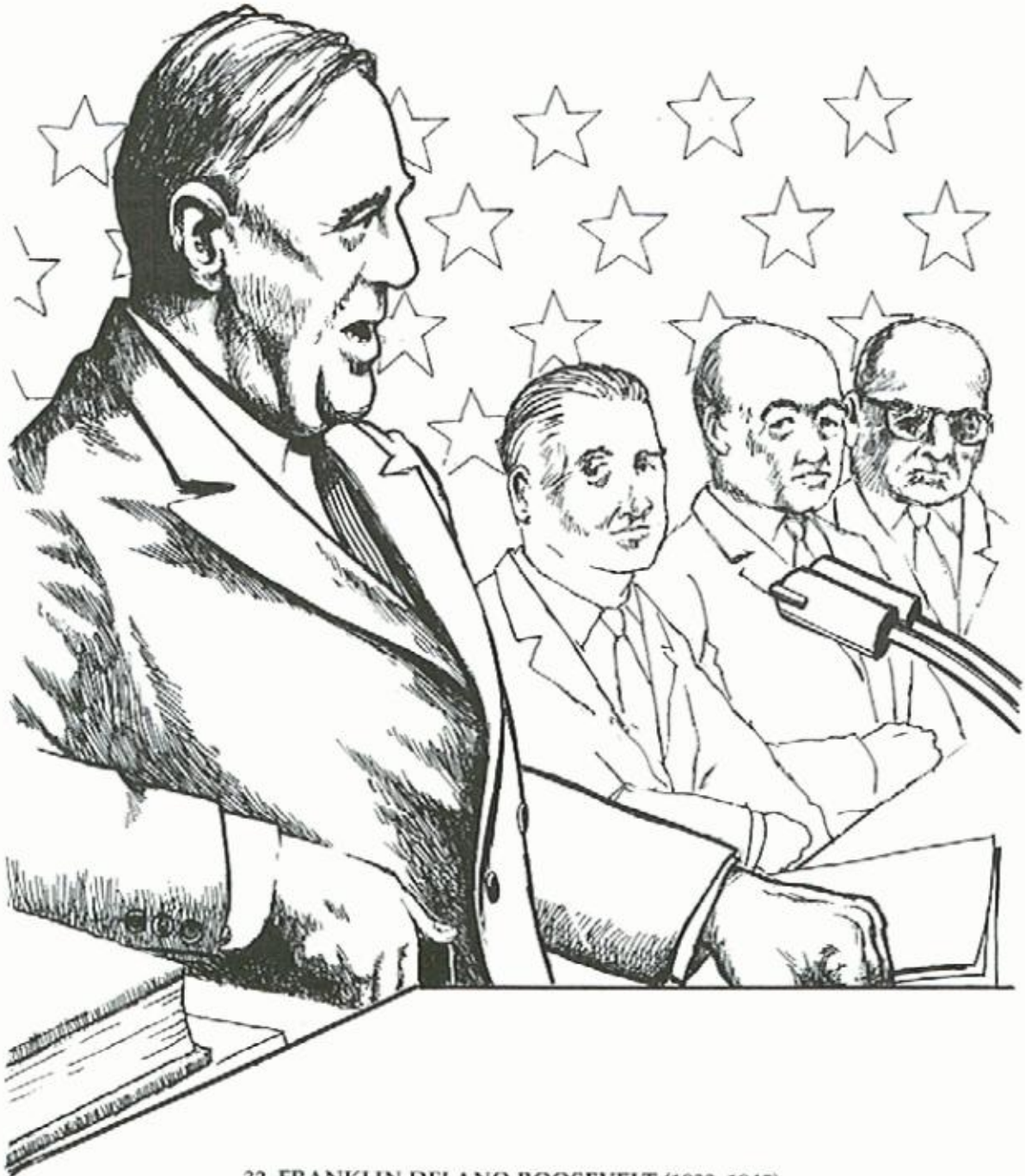
Warren Harding, a business leader, Ohio state senator, lieutenant governor, and eventually a U.S. senator, was nominated for the presidency largely as a compromise candidate of whom it was said that "he looked like a president." He was a party-line Republican whose campaign promise was "less government in business is more business in government." Harding officially opposed U.S. entry into the League of Nations, thereby ensuring its ultimate failure. In his favor, he sponsored an arms limitation conference that led to the Four Power Pact among the U.S. and Great Britain, France, and Japan; he established the Bureau of the Budget, the first formal measure to place restraints on federal expenditures; and was an outspoken civil rights advocate. The president's friends used their official positions for their own enrichment in a scandal-ridden administration that included the famous Teapot Dome scandal, wherein Harding's secretary of the interior sold the nation's oil reserves for his own personal gain. To this day, there is no evidence that President Harding knew about or profited from these crimes. Harding died in office of an ostensible heart attack in San Francisco in 1923, in the course of a cross-country tour intended to promote his presidency and policies among the electorate.

30. CALVIN COOLIDGE (1923–1929)

Calvin Coolidge was Harding's vice president and he succeeded him in 1923. Running on the slogan, "Keep Cool with Coolidge," he easily won re-election in 1924. It was clear that he felt he had a special obligation to restore to the presidency the dignity that had been lost in the previous administration's notorious extravagance and waste. A Vermont-born lawyer who climbed the political ladder to become state senator and then governor of Massachusetts, Calvin Coolidge was a conservative Republican who believed in an isolationist foreign policy, tax cuts for the wealthy, and only extremely limited aid to needy families. A commentator of the time noted that the genius of President Coolidge lay in "his talent for effectively doing nothing." He was a remote and silent man, perhaps best remembered for the statement made near the end of his term, "I do not choose to run for president in 1928." Coolidge died in 1933 at his home in Northampton, Massachusetts.

31. HERBERT HOOVER (1929–1933)

Herbert Hoover was a Quaker with an outstanding record of public service as an engineer, administrator, and humanitarian. He trained as a mining engineer and managed mining operations in various parts of the world, a profession that eventually made him a millionaire by the age of forty. It was his highly effective relief efforts involving the distribution of food and supplies to war-torn Europe during World War I that gained him international attention and spurred his political career. His life's mission was to triumph over poverty and hunger. Hoover was a vigorous secretary of commerce under Harding and Coolidge. During the Great Depression, however, which began during his presidential administration, Hoover was cautious and slow to act. He preferred maintaining a balanced budget and cutting taxes over public assistance programs, measures he felt were not the province of the federal government, but rather the responsibility of local government and voluntary donations. As a consequence of these policies, the Depression deepened and Herbert Hoover became the scapegoat: collections of makeshift shanties were called "Hoovervilles," newspapers, "Hoover blankets," etc. The man once hailed as a great humanitarian for his relief efforts now drew jeers from the crowds of the afflicted. He was soundly defeated in the election of 1932, and after a very active retirement, died in New York City in 1964.

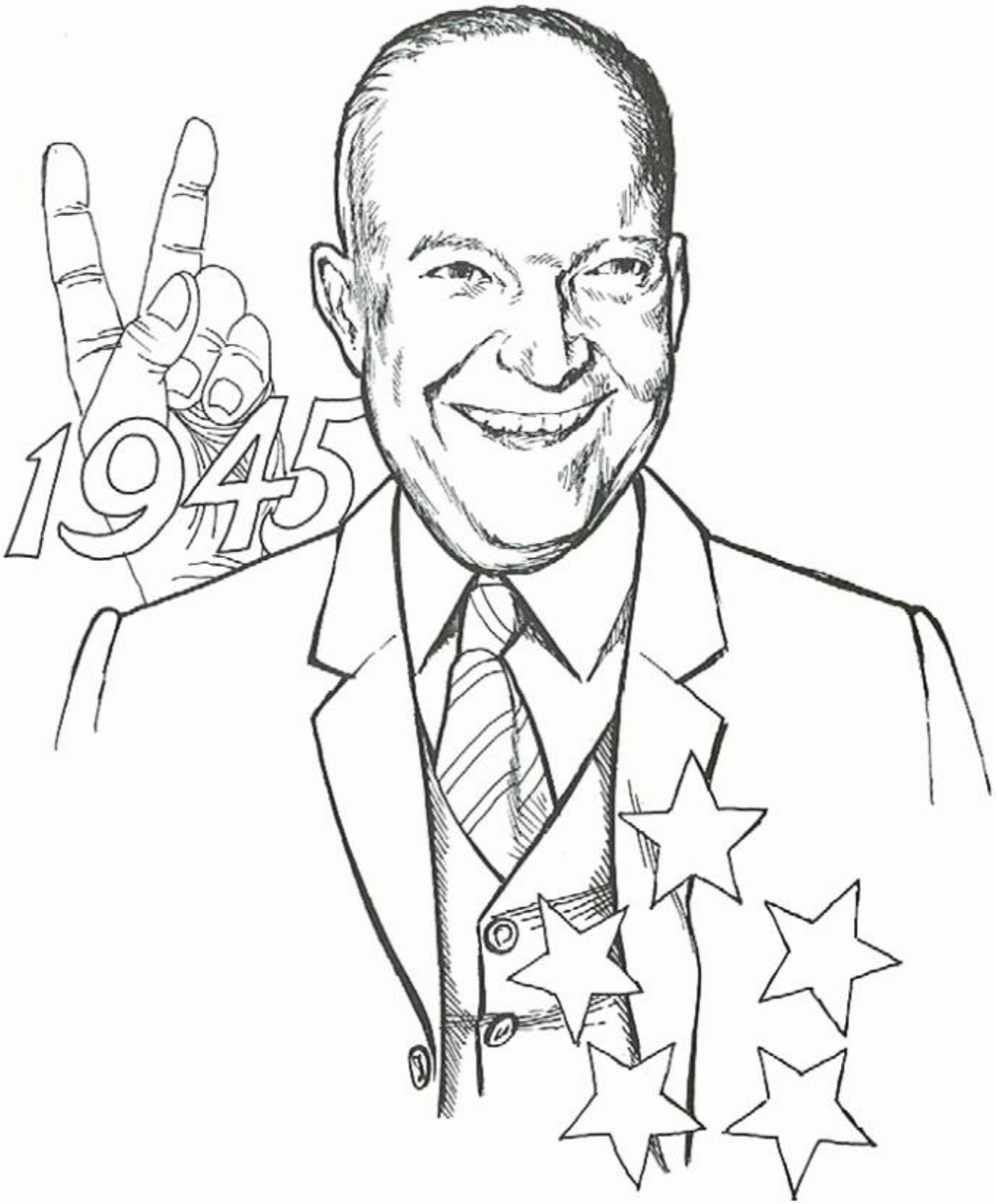


32. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT (1933–1945)

Besides being the fifth cousin of Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt was distantly related to presidents Ulysses S. Grant and Zachary Taylor, as well as the seventh cousin once removed of Winston Churchill. He entered public life as a member of the New York State Senate, became assistant secretary of the navy in 1913, and was elected governor of New York in 1928 and 1930. In 1932, Franklin Roosevelt was elected president with the largest popular and electoral vote in history, and was re-elected in 1936 by an even greater majority. He was president during the darkest days of the Great Depression, and launched the New Deal, a massive program of direct federal relief and economic regulation that included the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Works Progress Administration, and many other vital measures that helped ease the lives of millions of Americans during the greatest economic disaster in the nation's history. Through his famous radio broadcasts—his "fireside chats"—he brought hope to millions of Americans during those gloomy times, and helped them to regain faith in themselves and their country. "The only thing we have to fear," he said, "is fear itself." Although a victim of polio and confined to a wheelchair, Roosevelt pursued an active political life, serving three terms as chief executive. He not only guided the nation through the Depression, but also through World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. He conferred often with Allied leaders mapping the progress of the war, and at the time of his death, he was planning the creation of the United Nations, which he hoped would settle international disputes and avert future wars. After presiding over the twelve most difficult years in American history, Franklin Roosevelt died in office of a cerebral hemorrhage in 1945—in the last months of World War II.

33. HARRY S. TRUMAN (1945–1953)

Harry Truman was vice president during the last Roosevelt administration. A Missourian and a farmer, Truman went to France in World War I with the 129th Field Artillery, rising from lieutenant to major. After the war, he studied the law and became a judge, and later a senator—where he gained national attention as the head of the Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program during World War II. The investigation exposed an estimated $15 billion in waste within the military-industrial complex. Within his first six months of president, to avoid hundreds of thousands of Allied casualties in an invasion of Japan, he made the decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan, which immediately ended the war. As part of his domestic policy known as the Fair Deal, President Truman worked to increase the minimum wage and to expand Social Security coverage. He approved the Marshall Plan for European recovery with some $13 billion in reconstruction projects, and enunciated the Truman Doctrine, a policy of containment to limit the spread of communism by supporting free peoples. When communist North Korea invaded South Korea, Truman promptly sent U.S. assistance under the banner of the United Nations to contain the aggression of the former, while keeping the war a limited one. Harry Truman died in December 1972 in Kansas City, Missouri, after an active retirement. Here we see President Truman flourishing the newspaper headline that mistakenly announced the election victory of his opponent Thomas E. Dewey in 1948. The election was won by Truman in the biggest upset in the history of presidential campaigns.



34. DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (1953–1961)

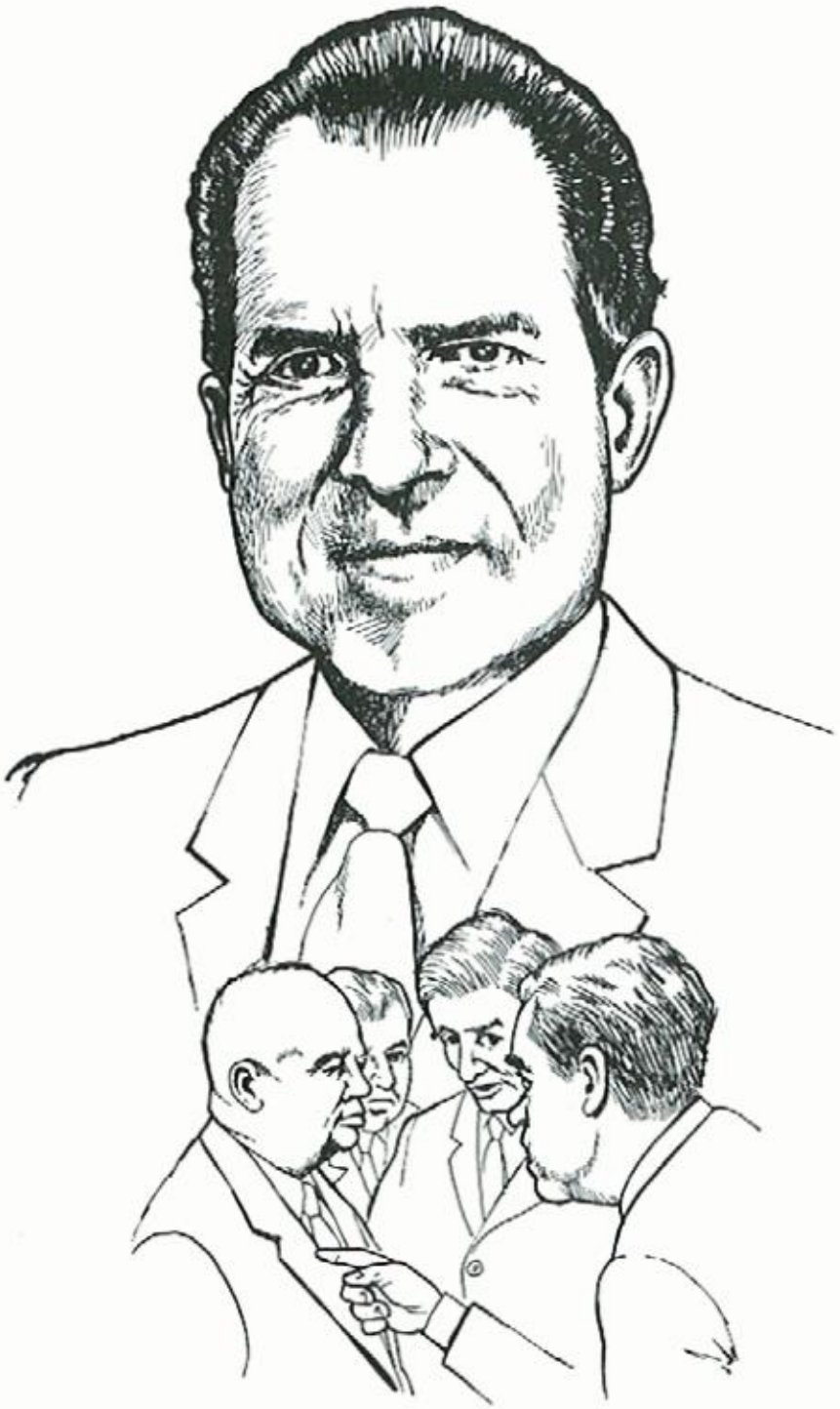
Although a fervent pacifist, Dwight Eisenhower was a professional soldier whose distinguished military career included serving as supreme commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force in World War II, and architect of the Normandy invasion. In post-war years, he was army chief of staff, president of Columbia University, and supreme commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) forces in Europe. As president, Eisenhower strengthened NATO, ended the Korean conflict, formed the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), and oversaw the development of the hydrogen bomb, a weapon which he hoped would serve as a deterrent to World War III. While the first civil rights laws enacted in the twentieth century were among his major accomplishments as president, cold war foreign policy dominated his term of office. Eisenhower died in 1969 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

35. JOHN F. KENNEDY (1961–1963)

Massachusetts-born, Harvard graduate John F. Kennedy was the first president born in the twentieth century. When serving in the navy during World War II, his torpedo boat—the PT-109—was sunk by a Japanese destroyer. Amidst water aflame with burning gasoline, he led survivors to safety, while singlehandedly towing an injured crewmen by a life jacket strap held between his teeth for three miles through rough seas. Kennedy was awarded a Purple Heart, and the Navy and Marine Corps medal for his heroism. Later, he became a congressman and senator, and was the author of *Profiles in Courage*, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in history. In 1960, he was elected president, the first Roman Catholic in the nation's history to attain this office. Kennedy supported a broad and substantial civil rights agenda in the face of major civil rights demonstrations by activist groups, including a Freedom March on Washington. His economic programs launched the country on its longest sustained expansion since World War II. With the Alliance for Progress, which granted billions of dollars for economic assistance to Latin America, and the Peace Corps, Kennedy brought American idealism to the aid of developing countries. In foreign affairs, the failed attempt by a group of Cuban exiles to overthrow the communist regime in Cuba—known as the Bay of Pigs Invasion—led to Soviet attempts a year later to install nuclear missiles there. Kennedy's response to this action brought the world to the brink of war before the Soviets backed down and took their missiles home. Soon after, a nuclear test ban treaty was signed among the U.S., the Soviet Union, and Great Britain, and considered by some historians to be Kennedy's major achievement. On November 22, 1963, President Kennedy was killed by an assassin's bullet in Dallas, Texas.

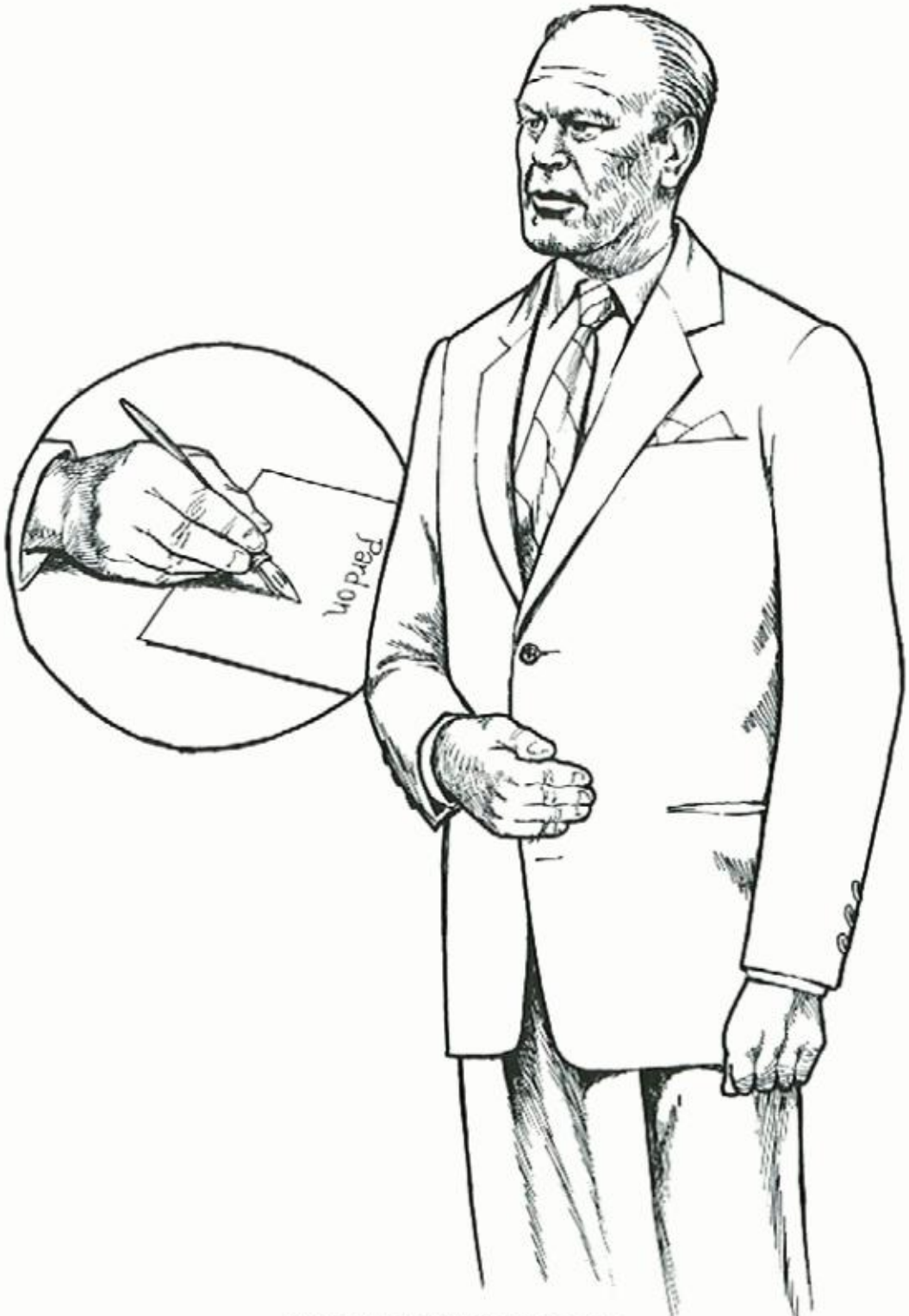
36. LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON (1963–1969)

Lyndon Johnson, a Texas New Dealer congressman, served briefly in the U.S. Navy during World War II, and later was elected senator. When the Democrats gained control of the Senate in 1955, he became at forty-six the youngest majority leader in Senate history. As vice president, Johnson was sworn in as president upon Kennedy's death. Once in office, Johnson initiated a program he termed the "Great Society," which incorporated aid to education, Medicare, urban renewal, the war on poverty, prevention of juvenile delinquency, and environmental protection. He was a champion of the space program, which climaxed with U.S. astronauts orbiting the moon in 1968. The crisis which undermined Johnson's presidency was the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, which he could not manage to resolve and yet would not abandon. In 1968, amid mounting controversy and strident anti-war sentiment, Johnson announced to a startled nation that he would not seek or accept the Democratic nomination for president in the forthcoming election. He retired to his 360-acre ranch in San Antonio, Texas, where he tended to its day-to-day operations and wrote his memoirs; he died in 1973.



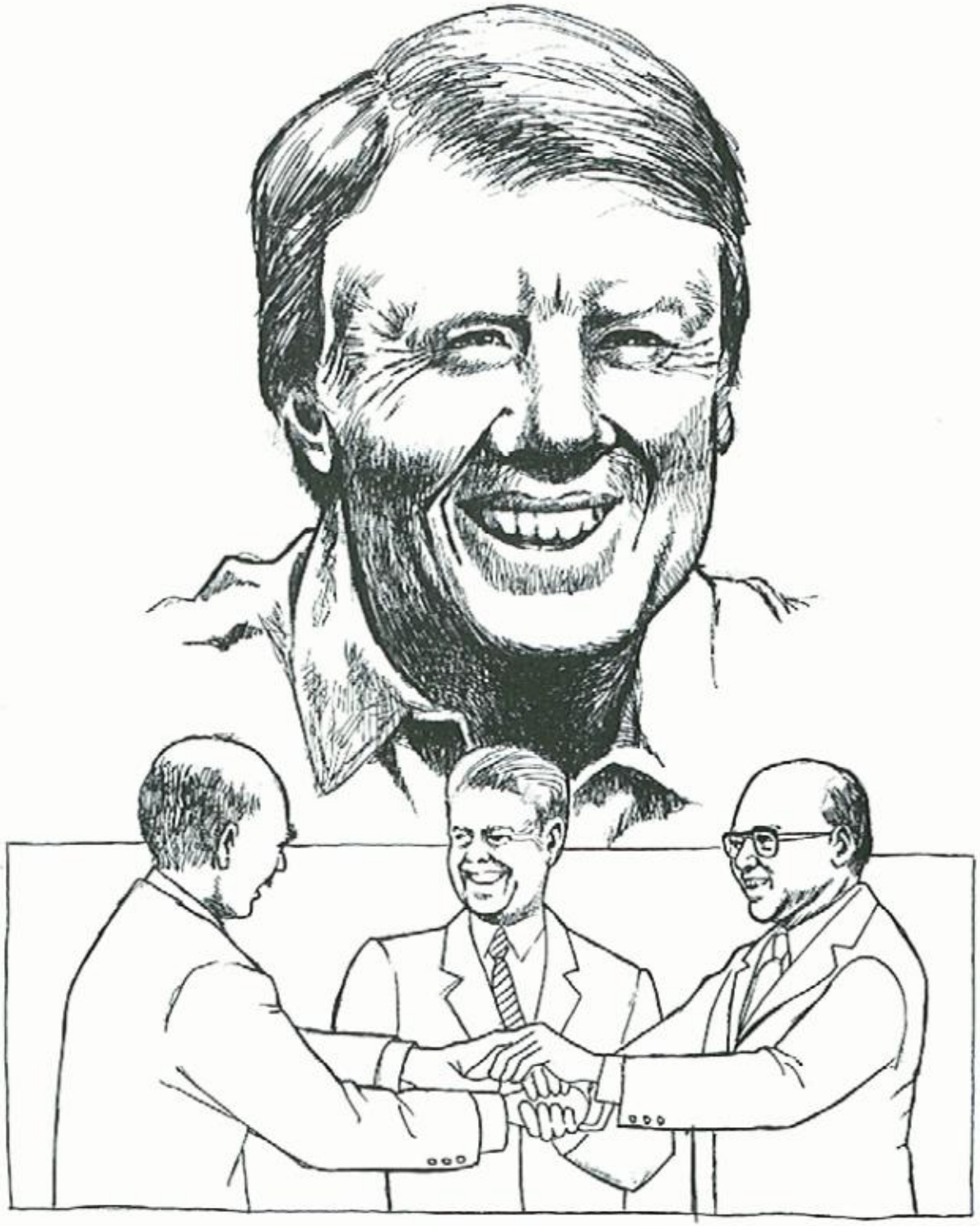
37. RICHARD M. NIXON (1969–1974)

Richard M. Nixon, a California lawyer, served in the navy during World War II. He was elected to Congress after the war, and in 1950 he won a seat in the Senate. At age thirty-nine, he was chosen by President Eisenhower to be his running mate. Nominated for president by the Republican party in 1960, he lost the election to John F. Kennedy. It wasn't until 1968 that he finally won the presidency, and during his first administration American astronauts made the first lunar landing in mankind's history. Nixon ended the U.S. military involvement in Vietnam, bringing home half a million U.S. troops. He opened up relations between the U.S. and Communist China, and improved relations with the Soviet Union. Although he was an acknowledged master of foreign policy, he is best remembered for the Watergate fiasco which occurred during his second term in office. A number of administration officials resigned during this scandal—including Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, as a result of his own personal scandal. The furor over Watergate grew so fierce that eventually President Nixon himself stepped down, thus becoming the first president in history to resign the office. After a productive retirement in which he wrote several books, travelled extensively, and attained a respected elder statesman status, Nixon died in New York City in 1994. Here we see him engaged with Soviet premier Nikita Khruschev in the so-called Kitchen Debate in Moscow in 1959, when Nixon was still Eisenhower's vice president.



38. GERALD FORD (1974–1977)

Gerald Ford, a midwestern lawyer, served in the navy during World War II, and was elected to Congress after the war, where he served from 1949 to 1973. Appointed by Richard Nixon to be vice president after the resignation of Spiro Agnew, he became president when Nixon resigned, thus becoming the only chief executive to fill the office of president without being voted to office in a national election. During his first fourteen months' tenure, Ford vetoed thirty-nine measures passed by a Congress dominated by the Democrats, yet achieved the passage of the Clemency for Draft Evaders and Deserters (1947), the Helsinki Accords (1975), the Campaign Reform Law (1974), in reaction to the campaign finance abuses of Watergate, the Extension of Voting Rights Act (1975) to Spanish-speaking and other minorities, and the New York City Bail Out (1975), among others. In the field of foreign affairs, the Ford administration provided aid to both Israel and Egypt, in effect purchasing a truce between these two adversaries. Gerald Ford is probably best remembered for granting a full pardon to former President Richard Nixon. He continues to enjoy an active retirement in Rancho Mirage, California.

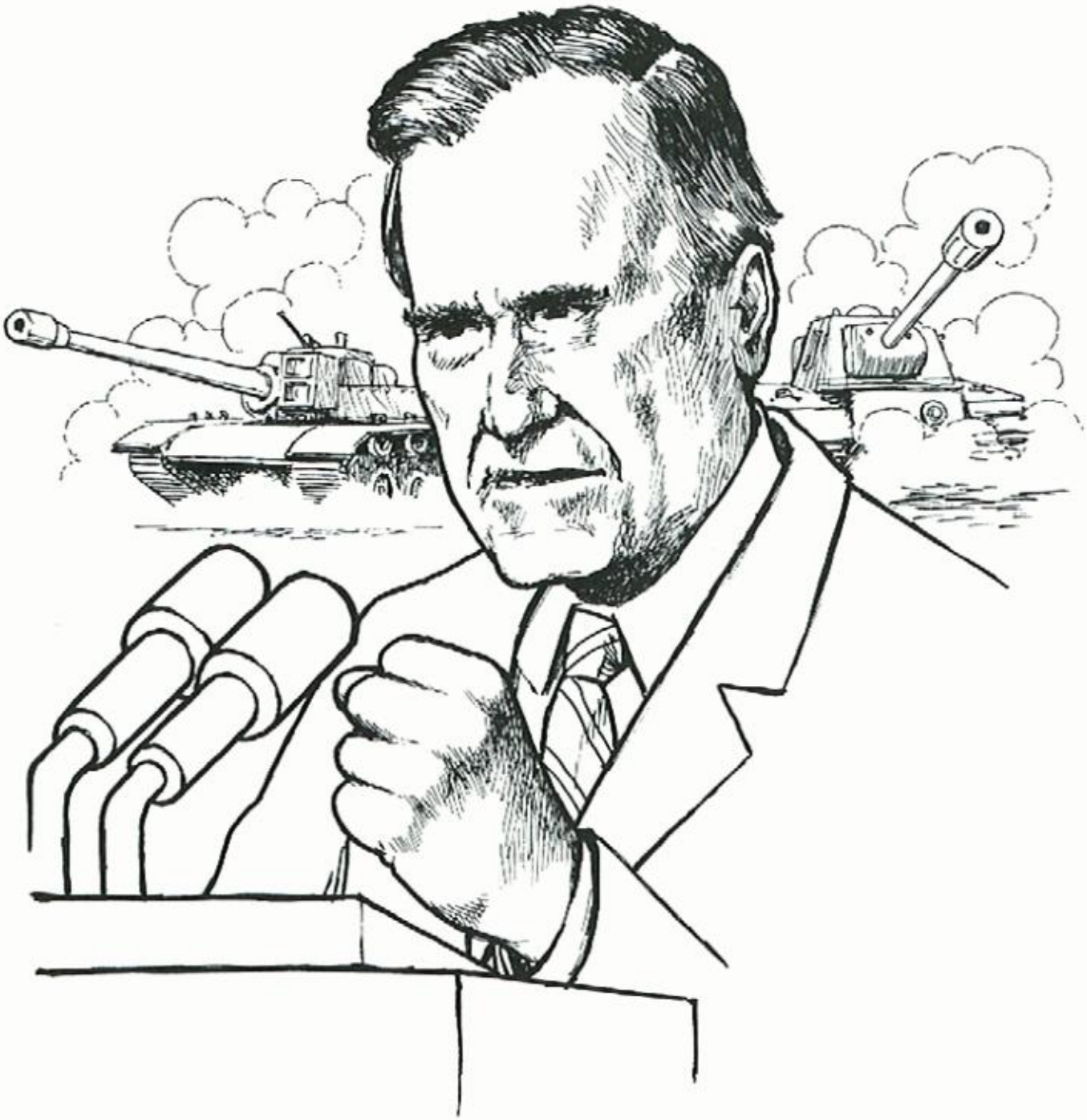


39. JAMES EARL CARTER (1977–1981)

James Earl Carter, who prefers to be known as "Jimmy," was a navy veteran and peanut farmer, member of the Georgia State Senate and governor of Georgia. Elected president as a dark horse candidate in 1976—the first president from the Deep South since Zachary Taylor in 1848—Carter pursued a policy of fighting inflation and unemployment at home, while championing human rights abroad. The poor state of the national economy, rising oil prices, and a revolution in Iran—which resulted in the capture of fifty-two employees of the U.S. embassy in Tehran—presented a series of challenges to the president which he was unable to resolve. A failed attempt to rescue the captured embassy employees did not increase the president's popularity. Carter's one major triumph was the Camp David Accords (1978), which entailed a Framework for Peace in the Middle East and a Framework for the Conclusion of a Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel. Jimmy Carter was defeated in a landslide victory by Ronald Reagan, in the election of 1980. He retired to Plains, Georgia where he worked to revive the family peanut business and authored several books. As a vigorous human rights activist, he has helped build homes for the poor, and been active in peace negotiations and election-monitoring in places like Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, and Ethiopia.

40. RONALD REAGAN (1981–1989)

Ronald Reagan, a midwestern-born movie actor, served in the U.S. army in World War II. He was a Democrat turned Republican, and two-term governor of California who, in becoming president in 1980, was the first professional actor to attain the office. He pressed Congress for tax cuts to improve business, and for heavy cuts in programs for the poor, the aged, the environment, and national parks. He also vastly increased military spending, driving the federal budget deficit in 1984 to more than $180 billion. In 1981, he survived an assassination attempt and was back at work in the White House just twelve days after he was shot. Because of his easy, convivial manner, he was popular with voters, and became known as "the great communicator." The scandal of the Iran-Contra affair did not adversely affect his popularity, nor did the stock market plunge of 1987. Ronald Reagan is perhaps best remembered for his Star Wars anti-missile program, and the beginning of the end of the cold war with the emergence of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev (pictured above) and the spirit of *glasnost* (or openness). The most popular outgoing president since Dwight Eisenhower, Reagan retired to Bel-Air, California.

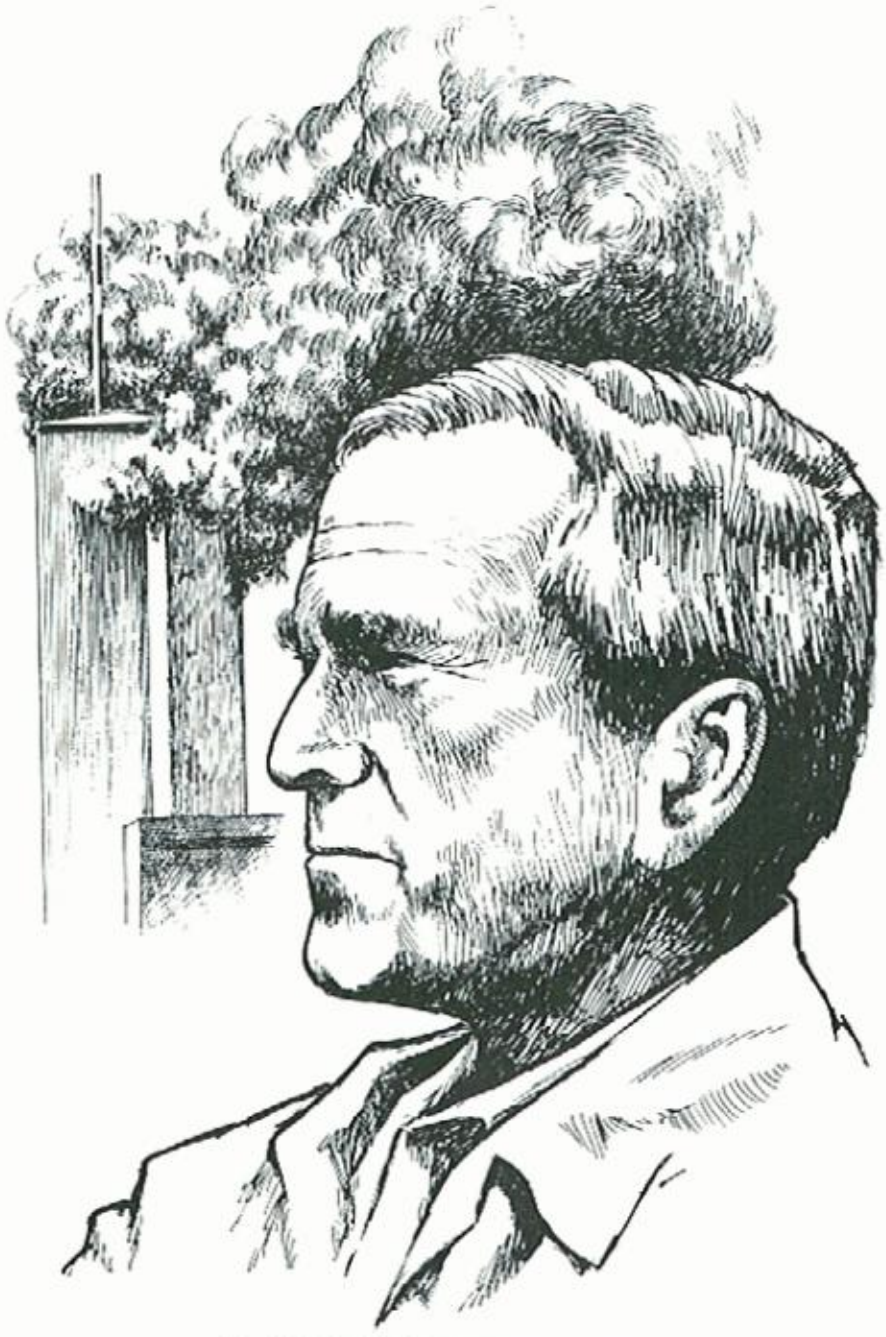


41. GEORGE BUSH (1989–1993)

George Bush, a New England-born veteran of World War II, was a Yale graduate and Texas businessman whose oil speculations made him a millionaire. He won election to the House of Representatives from the state of Texas, served as ambassador to the United Nations, and director of the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1980, Ronald Reagan chose Bush as his running mate, and in 1988 he was elected president. George Bush presided over the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war. In 1990, when Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait, Bush organized Operation Desert Storm with a military force operating under the United Nations flag that ultimately defeated the army of Iraq, and drove it out of the illegally occupied country. The savings and loan crisis forced the U.S. to repay investors billions of dollars as one after another of the banks involved went broke, bringing about a recession starting in August 1990 that forced Bush to countermand his campaign promise ("read my lips, no new taxes") by asking Congress to pass new taxes. George Bush will probably best be remembered as the author of victory during the Persian Gulf war. After losing the election of 1992 after a single term in office, he retired to Houston, Texas.

42. WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON (1993–2001)

William Jefferson Clinton, popularly known as Bill Clinton, is an Arkansas-born Rhodes scholar, a graduate of Georgetown University and Yale University Law School, who became governor of Arkansas at age thirty-two—at that time the youngest governor in the nation. He was elected president as a "moderate" Democrat. In the first two years of his first term, Clinton won two free trade victories, including the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and passed a 30 billion dollar anti-crime bill. He was defeated in his efforts to pass a national health care reform bill by Congress, who deemed it too expensive. The elections of 1994 brought Republican victories in both the House and the Senate, resulting in Republican majorities in both houses. The Republicans, however, suffered a defeat in the November 1995 government shutdown, due to an impasse on the budget issue. In the field of foreign affairs, NATO's incursions into the fratricidal wars in Bosnia involved U.S. participation as a NATO member. Clinton's 1996 victory at the polls against Republican contender Bob Dole so enraged his political foes that, upon discovery of scandalous behavior in the president's personal life, a Republican-dominated House of Representatives was successful in bringing a bill of impeachment against him to the Senate. It was ultimately voted down, thus making Clinton the second president to be impeached but not removed from office. To some extent, the remainder of Clinton's term of office was overshadowed by this event (as was Andrew Johnson's 134 years earlier), compounded by an adversarial Republican-dominated Congress.



43. GEORGE WALKER BUSH (2001–)

Born July 6, 1946, George Walker Bush is the son of former president George Bush. He grew up in Texas, and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in history from Yale, and a Masters in Business Administration from Harvard. During the Vietnam War he served as a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard. After working in the oil and gas industry in Texas, Mr. Bush worked on his father's successful presidential campaign in 1988, and became managing general partner of the Texas Rangers baseball team. He then ran for governor of Texas and was elected in 1994. He was re-elected in 1998, the first Texas governor to be re-elected to two consecutive terms.

In 2000, as Republican candidate for president of the United States, Bush waged a close and controversial race against the Democratic candidate, Al Gore. Bush won on the basis of the electoral vote, although he lost the popular vote. Because of voting irregularities, however, the Gore campaign challenged the election results. After a round of legal battles, the case went to the Supreme Court, which narrowly (5-4) decided the election in favor of Bush.

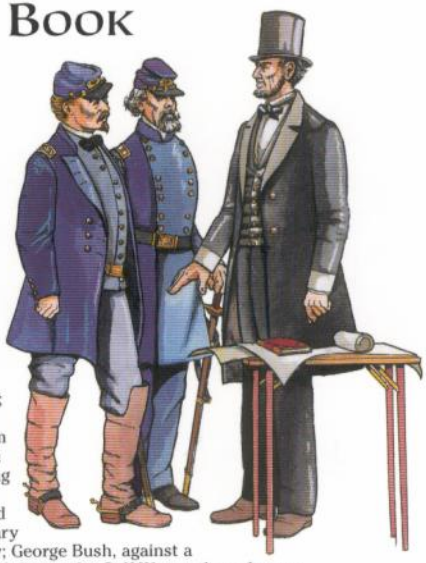
In the first year of his term, President Bush faced one of the greatest catastrophes ever to strike the United States. On September 11, 2001, terrorists deliberately crashed two hijacked jetliners into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, causing the collapse of the towers and the deaths of thousands of people. A third jetliner crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D. C., resulting in enormous damage and the loss of nearly 200 lives, while a fourth airliner crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. Vowing to punish those responsible, President Bush launched a multi-faceted campaign to root out terrorism around the world, including an attack on Afghanistan, believed to be harboring the terrorists responsible.

President Bush is married to Laura Welch Bush, a former teacher and librarian, and they have 19-year-old twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna.

AMERICAN PRESIDENTS

COLORING BOOK

PETER COPELAND



43 Presidents of the United States—from George Washington to George W. Bush—are featured in this fact-filled archive of ready-to-color pictures.

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